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THE CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL: A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

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Some Preliminary Observations

THIS Final Report of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission follows an earlier interim report submitted in 1966 to Congress. It is fitting that the officers of the National Commission should say a few words on the spirit in which the Commission approached its tasks; on the special advantages and disadvantages of the time chosen for the Centennial commemorations; on what the Commission believes to have been its central accomplishment; and on what it thinks to have been the main reasons for any failures. These initial observations are tentative and subject to elaboration; but they may be helpful in defining some of the facts and ideas later presented more fully in the body of the report.

The Commission approached the Centennial with a deep appreciation of the opportunity that its commemorations would offer not alone in teaching history, and in illustrating lessons in patriotism and in heroic devotion to principle, but also in emphasizing the importance of National union and the necessity of maintaining our land of varied sections—States and localities as a Union one and indivisible in sentiment and loyalty. Those members of the Commission best versed in history were equally anxious that the commemorations of a war that resulted in emancipation, and in the guaranties of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments upon freedom, civil rights, and suffrage, should be held in such manner as to strengthen the social and moral solidarity of the Republic.

The National Commission had the advantage of beginning its labors as a great wave of popular interest in the Civil War—its dramatic events, its eminent personages North and South, and its manifold social and economic developments—was rising throughout the Nation. It had the disadvantage of doing its work while a new crisis in the long history of racial irritations in America gripped parts of the country, presenting embarrassments that could be avoided only with anxious precaution and tact. The fact that they were avoided is creditable to the good sense and good temper of the great mass of the people.

National, State, and local Centennial Commissions and committees were themselves composed of men and women who in a self-sacrificing spirit gave endless amounts of time, thought and toil to the commemorations with no thought of any compensation but the satisfaction of duty done. They were gratified to find that in every community, from the Canadian line to the Gulf of Mexico, great numbers of people were eager to relinquish their wonted occupations and to apply their best thoughts and energies to the solemn task of memorializing the generation that met the terrible sacrifices

of life and treasure required in the years 1861–65, and to the still more solemn task of rededicating the present and the coming generations to the noblest purposes of the Republic.

Seldom if ever in our peacetime history has such a multitude of our best citizens given so freely of their time, ideas and efforts for a large public undertaking rooted in reverence for our common past. Members of the National Commission will ever regard as their proudest accomplishment the part they played in helping evoke and guide this spontaneous manifestation of nationwide feeling.

This report attempts to make it clear that the National Commission claims no special credit for such successes as marked various parts of the Centennial. The Commission could have accomplished nothing without the support, so farsighted and generous, of both Houses of Congress; of successive Presidents of the United States; of State and local Centennial commissions all over the land; and of the great mass of citizens, humble and distinguished, of whom we have just spoken.

The National Commission is well aware that, like all such bodies, it must confess to its share of failures and shortcomings, some of which this report describes in detail. It offers no excuses. It begs merely to state that some of them proceeded from an excess of good intentions, from a zealous attempt to do too much with too little—too little in time, for time is always short; too little in money, for although Congress was generous, it was natural to depend heavily upon unpaid services; too little in trained personnel, for experts are often hard to find; and too little in thoughtful planning. We submit only that it is better to err from attempting too much than from attempting too little; for we hold with Browning that a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what is heaven for?—the heaven of long-desired self-expression in a good cause.

In closing, we tender our thanks for patient support and friendly aid to the Congress, to the other agencies of our Government, and above all to the people of the United States.

ALLAN NEVINS, *Chairman*
U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission

Origin and Objects of the Commission

WHEN Congress in 1957, by Public Law 85–105, created the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission, it was responding to an unmistakable demand on the part of the American people.

It had become clear that a great variety of agencies, public and private, were determined to mark the centennial of the struggle that, waged during the agonizing years 1861–65, had given a final decision not only upon the indissolubility of the Union but also upon the impossibility of reconciling the continuance of slavery with the basic principles of American freedom and justice. It was a struggle that, in the course of mobilizing the Nation's energies—military, economic, and social, had transformed all American life. The centenary would clearly be observed North and South, East and West, with deep feeling and a spontaneous manifestation of patriotic sentiment.

The only questions were whether the many ceremonies in prepartion could be organized without confusion; whether they could be carried out upon a dignified and elevated plane, free from stains of commercialism or vulgarity; and whether, above all, they could be planned in such fashion as not to reawaken memories of old sectional antagonisms and political rancors, but instead strengthen both the unity of the Nation and popular devotion to the highest purpose of the Republic—a republic that, between Sumter and Appomattox, had watched hundreds of thousands of young men lay down their lives in devotion to a cause.

The Civil War had never been forgotten. How could it be? To many communities it was a memory recent in time, and intimately close in space. Thousands of men and women had heard their elders tell stories of battles and sieges; had known something of the tottering marches of surviving veterans; had helped to decorate graves, to salute old banners, and to place battered weapons and other relics in museums to be treasured. They had seen monuments and ruins, and had heard all the old wartime songs.

Nor did these memories wane. On the contrary, the approach of the centenary found interest in the war unmistakably rising. This fact was attributable in part to the more effective teaching of history in our schools; in part to enhanced attention by the mass media to colorful segments of our national record; but, above all, to the achievement of a number of our ablest writers in making the war period live again, vivid and poignant.

Stephen Crane, in *The Red Badge of Courage,* had been one of the first to show that a Civil War battle, with its psychological overtones, could be effectively presented in fiction. Such stories as Thomas Nelson Page's "The

Burial of the Guns," Hamlin Garland's "The Return of a Private," J. W. DeForest's *Conversion of Miss Ravenel from Secession to Loyalty* (with its vivid depiction of the bloody fighting at Port Hudson), and Harold Frederic's *The Copperhead,* had helped keep memories of the conflict alive.

Yet shortly before the centenary a veritable renascence of Civil War literature became evident. It was led by Margaret Mitchell's tremendous novel, *Gone with the Wind,* which had a little of the epic sweep though not the power of Tolstoy's *War and Peace,* and which capitivated millions. An equal success was scored by Stephen Vincent Benet's eloquent narrative poem, *John Brown's Body,* read in homes or recited in schoolrooms all over the land. Such novels as Stark Young's *So Red the Rose,* its scenes set in wartime Mississippi, enjoyed a well-deserved success.

Meanwhile, history and biography rose to more ambitious efforts in treating what a multitude of Americans regarded as the most epic chapters in our national record. James Ford Rhodes had compared the Civil War to the Peloponessian contest that had inspired the pens of Thucydides and Plutarch. In 1917 Rhodes brought out a single-volume *History of the Civil War* that won the Pulizer Prize and possessed so much vitality of spirit and attractiveness of style that it was scanned with zest by young and old.

Our Pericles of the great crisis, Abraham Lincoln, who had always seemed to most Amricans as commanding in patient sagacity as he was appealing in his personal traits, attracted a brilliant array of new biographers and interpreters, expert in the complex issues of the period, vigorous in their depiction of the pioneer West and wartime Washington, and able to narrate graphically the stirring events of Lincoln's time.

The great 10-volume work, *Abraham Lincoln: A History,* by his secretaries, Nicolay and Hay, had kept an authoritative place. As early as 1928, Albert J. Beveridge had issued the first two volumes of an elaborate new life, unfortunately never finished. In 1926 Carl Sandburg's vivid and poetic volumes, *Abraham Lincoln, The Prairie Years,* had covered the leader's early developments. A new and solid foundation for Lincoln studies had been laid when, in 1953, the Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield, Ill., supported the publication of a nine-volume set of the *Collected Works of Lincoln,* effectively edited by Roy P. Basler and others.

Then, year after year, the huge shelf of Lincoln materials was enriched by books that heightened interest in the approaching Centennial. They included Sandburg's *Lincoln, The War Years,* rich in incident and anecdote, and James G. Randall's masterly volumes, *Lincoln the President,* as well as the one-volume life issued in 1952 by Benjamin P. Thomas—a work widely read and acclaimed.

At the same time, in the years before the Civil War Centennial, the military and naval history of the war was being given the most detailed and searching attention. It had always seemed to many a subject of peculiar interest, offering mysterious elements and controversial themes that could be debated endlessly. Throughout the Nation (and even abroad), study groups called Civil War Round Tables sprang up, meeting regularly to

hear speakers present disquisitions on strategy, tactics and other topics that were always lively and sometimes expert.

The older military histories of the war—the great set called *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War,* written in large part by Federal and Confederate officers, the *Campaigns of the Civil War* series, originally issued by Scribner's, and John Codman Rope's multivolume *Story of the Civil War*—had continued to hold a large public. So had such classic biographies as G. F. R. Henderson's *Stonewall Jackson and the American Civil War* (steadily reprinted since 1906) and the *Memoirs of Grant and Sherman.* But these enduring volumes had in part become plainly outdated and needed supplementing.

An almost overwhelming array of new editions of standard volumes, with fresh editing, and of wholly new books—biographies of commanders, regimental histories, and studies of battles great and small—appeared. Beside them were placed new works of great scope and depth, and which achieved circulations that, in view of their size and cost, were often astonishing. Americans, stimulated to a new curiosity, turned from *John Brown's Body* or Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln* to Douglas Freeman's masterly *R. E. Lee* and *Lee's Lieutenants,* or from *Gone with the Wind* to Kenneth P. William's successful *Lincoln Finds a General.*

By the time the Centennial observances impended, it could be said that the whole country was saturated in the lore and legend of the Civil War period. Probably never before in history had so large a population fixed their discerning attention upon one figure as our people had given to Lincoln. The libraries built upon his name contained as many titles as those devoted to Napoleon or Shakespeare. Probably never before had so many people shown an informed and critical interest in 4 years of mobilization, campaigns, victories and defeats. Most Americans believed that this was more emphatically *our* war than any conflict involving foreign allies or antagonists ever could be.

This fact offered manifest advantages to planners of Centennial commemorations. Popular interest amounting to enthusiasm was already aroused.

Some unfortunate distortions were evident in this interest. It attached itself too heavily to military personages and events, too slightly to the civil history of the quadrennium. The demand for depictions of Antietam, Shiloh, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg was insatiable. Too little demand was manifest for study and appreciation of the great Emancipation Proclamation of 1862; little interest was shown in study of the Homestead Act, the Pacific Railroad Act, or the Land-Grant College Act that brought so many great universities into existence.

The social, cultural, and economic history of the war era were neglected in favor of drum, bugle, and cannon-smoke. Everybody knew what Beauregard had done during the conflict; how many knew what part Walt Whitman had played? But distortions of this sort were not so much a disadvantage to Centennial planners as a challenge. They could be met and rectified.

But not all the circumstances of the time were favorable to an orderly and constructive management of the Civil War Centennial. The year the commemoration began, 1961, found friction over racial issues more threatening in various parts of the Nation than ever before. Assisted by many white people, the Negro was continuing a drive for equal rights on many fronts. Mass arrests were met by legal defences provided by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and similar bodies.

These events sent a wave of resentful feeling across many parts of the South and borderland. This wave inevitably affected many of the activities planned and many of the demonstrations arranged. It had been impossible to dissociate the racial issue from the Civil War while it raged (as evidenced in the 1863 New York draft riots); it was impossible now to dissociate it entirely from the Centennial commemoration.

The leadership of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission felt that it could permit no compromise on this question. Thousands of Negroes had served during the war in the Federal armies; thousands had lost their lives under the national banner. Not only had emancipation been one of the great turning points of the war; the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments had grown out of the war and were an integral part of the peace arrangements concluding it.

The Negro had every right to share in the Centennial on equal terms with the white man. Unfortunately, some men and communities were slow in recognizing this, and the Commission had to exercise constant vigilance to see that no humiliating slights were put upon people of the Negro race. It also had to see that no ceremonies were used in a contentious way that would hurt the feelings of conservatives in the uneasy readjustments that were taking place. The situation was difficult, and some initial fumbling took place; but after that, the position of the National Commission became as clear and firm as it was liberal.

The Commission and Its Work

CONGRESS gave the National Commission a broad mandate, declaring a purpose "to provide for appropriate and nationwide observances" of the Civil War Centennial and "the coordination of ceremonies." The statute directed the Commission "to prepare an overall program" that would include "specific plans" and give due consideration to the commemorative undertakings of "State, civic, patriotic, hereditary, and historical" organizations.

Congress also gave the Commission generous financial support by providing an annual appropriation of $100,000, with a few interruptions.

The Commission consisted of 25 members. The President of the United States, the Vice President, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives acted ex-officio. Four U.S. Senators and four Members of the House served; 12 additional members, including two from the Department of Defense, were appointed by the President. The Director of the National Park Service and a representative of the Library of Congress completed the Commission's roster.

Headquarters of the National Commission during the 1959–63 period were on the first floor of this antebellum home at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Jackson Place NW. Immediately behind the building is Blair House; diagonally across the street is the White House.

The original membership of the Commission included President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Senate President Richard M. Nixon and House Speaker Sam Rayburn; congressional members were Senators Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico, John W. Bricker of Ohio, Edward Martin of Pennsylvania, Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, and Representatives Frank M. Coffin of Maine, William M. Tuck of Virginia, Fred Schwengel of Iowa, and Wint Smith of Kansas.

Presidential appointees were Mr. Alvin L. Aubinoe, Mrs. Consuelo N. Bailey, Mr. Bruce Catton, Dr. Avery O. Craven, Mr. W. Norman Fitz-Gerald, Jr., Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III, Dr. John A. Krout, Mr. Aksel Nielson, Mr. William S. Paley, Mr. Dewey Short, Vice Adm. Stuart H. Ingersoll, and Dr. Bell I. Wiley.

The other original members were Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, and Dr. David C. Mearns, Chief of Manuscripts, Library of Congress.

From first to last the National Park Service rendered valuable assistance to the Commission. At the outset it furnished some needed staff, and later it helped draft the budgets, keep accounts, and audit the books of the Commission. It collaborated in many Centennial activities, including ceremonies on Civil War sites maintained by the Park Service.

ORGANIZATION, AIMS AND PLANS

At its first meeting, held December 20, 1957, in the offices of the Interior Department, the National Commission organized and began its work. General Grant and Mr. Tuck were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice Chairman. The members then began formulating the Commission's goals and programs, a task that required careful deliberation. Every member contributed useful ideas, either by mail or at meetings of the Commission.

Additional suggestions for objectives came from the annual National Assemblies, sponsored by the Commission. Delegates who attended the First Assembly, held early in 1958, urged that it reconvene each year. The Commission readily agreed to this. The next three Assemblies—held in Richmond, Va. (1959), St. Louis, Mo. (1960), and Charleston, S.C. (1961)—were devoted largely to Centennial planning. Most of the delegates were representatives of State Commissions, city and county Centennial Committees, patriotic societies and similar agencies. In panel discussions and in conferences they described their major projects, the progress made and difficulties encountered. They discussed such practical matters as publicity, financing, the preservation of documents and methods of enlisting the cooperation of community groups.

The National Commission did effective work in awakening the country to the Centennial and in making sure of wide public participation. This is by no means a claim of exclusive credit; for others—notably the State Commissions and local committees, the many Round Tables, and numerous news-

Gen. U. S. Grant, 3d, first Chairman of the National Commission, is shown presenting a special citation to actors John Wayne and William Holden, costars of the movie, "The Horse Soldiers."—*Reni Photos*

papers, magazines and broadcasters—did their share.

At the same time, the National Commission proceeded with other work. Its Committee on Legislation, under the chairmanship of Representative Schwengel, kept the Commission informed on all bills introduced in Congress that might affect the Centennial. Representative Schwengel himself successfully suported appropriations for microfilming Civil War records in the National Archives.

At an early stage the Commission requested the Post Office Department to issue a series of Civil War commemorative stamps.

Realizing that it would wish to recognize in some manner the labors of many Centennial participants, the Commision late in 1960 established a Committee on Awards, with Dr. Mearns as chairman. This committee created four grades of awards: the bronze Centennial Medallion, Award of Distinction, Award of Achievement, and Certificate of Appreciation. The Awards Committee's main work of choosing those who were to receive one or another of these awards came later as actual performances and attainments became known.

Early in 1959 the Commission also established a Committee on Historical Activities, with Dr. Wiley as chairman and Messrs. Craven, Mearns and Schwengel—three professional historians and a knowledgeable layman—as members. This committee conferred with scholars, explored a wide range of possibilities, and submitted a report pointing out the need for:

(1) A comprehensive study-syllabus covering the entire field of Civil War history, comparable in scope and quality to the *Harvard Guide to American History;*

(2) A series of booklets and manuals for laymen and high school teachers, including select bibliographies, teaching aids, descriptions of ordnance, an introduction to source materials, and guides to specialized studies;

(3) The microfilming by State libraries and other institutions of their Civil War manuscripts, and the deposit of prints of these microfilms in the Library of Congress;

(4) Fellowships to encourage graduate study in the Civil War and grants-in-aid for specialized research in the field; and

(5) Attractive factual books about the Civil War for young readers.

The report recommended that the Commission itself undertake one or two of the proposed publications, that it sponsor others, and that it try to bring talent and money together for the remainder.

The Committee's report, published in the December 1959, issue of *Civil War History,* unquestionably helped stimulate many writers, students and research workers to undertake useful activities.

THE CENTENNIAL LAUNCHED

With Sunday, January 8, 1961, designated as the date for launching the Centennial, the National Commission requested that special religious serv-

ices be held throughout the Nation. To this end, it distributed widely a booklet on *The Role of Religion in the Civil War Centennial.* In the preparation and distribution of this pamphlet, the Commission received valuable assistance from a number of noted clergymen.

By a moving proclamation on December 8, 1960, President Eisenhower urged all Americans to take an active part in the 1961–65 commemoration. He stated:

> That war was America's most tragic experience. But like most truly great tragedies, it carries with it an enduring lesson and a profound inspiration. It was a demonstration of heroism and sacrifice by men and women of both sides who valued principle above life itself and whose devotion to duty is a part of our Nation's noblest tradition. . . . That America could produce men so valiant and so enduring is a matter for deep and abiding pride.
>
> The same spirit on the part of the people at home supported and strengthened those soldiers through 4 years of great trial. That a Nation which contained hardly more than 30 million people, North and South together, could sustain 600,000 deaths without faltering is a lasting testimonial to something unconquerable in the American spirit. And that a transcending sense of unity and larger common purpose could, in the end, cause the men and women who had suffered so greatly to close ranks once the contest ended and to go on together to build a greater, freer, and happier America must be a source of inspiration as long as our country may last.

With special prayers and sermons, and solemn ceremonies at Grant's Tomb in New York City and Lee's crypt in Lexington, Va., the Civil War Centennial thus opened in a way that emphasized its meaning to all Americans.

THE FIRST CENTENNIAL YEAR

The year 1961 was in many respects the most eventful in the life of the National Commission. It witnessed not only the launching of the Centennial, but one major crisis, numerous changes in the Commission personnel, a rapid development of activities by State and local agencies, and a series of outstanding commemorative events.

Early in the year the Commission lost the services of four original members who departed Government posts. Senator O'Mahoney, Representative Coffin and Representative Wint Smith retired from Congress and were succeeded on the Commission by Senator Ralph W. Yarborough (Texas), Representative Richard Bolling (Missouri) and Representative George Goodling (Pennsylvania). When Mr. Short retired shortly thereafter, his place on the Commission as the representative of the Department of Defense went to the Honorable Roy K. Davenport, Undersecretary of the Army.

With the exception of one unfortunate occurrence, general harmony was maintained between northern and southern groups throughout the 8 years of the National Commission. The one unhappy incident that aroused a temporary antagonism between different bodies of Centennial participants occurred soon after the beginning of the nationwide observances, and attracted highly critical attention.

The Centennial Commission accepted an invitation to hold its Fourth National Assembly in Charleston, April 11–12, 1961, in conjunction with a week-long commemoration by the South Carolina Commission of the firing on Fort Sumter. In doing this, several officers of the national organization, with a deplorable lack of vigilance, committed themselves to using as headquarters a racially segregated hotel. When the hotel's policy became known, a Northern State Commission with a Negro member and strong convictions about racial equality made justifiable protests. Inevitably, public statements on both sides received widespread headlines and aroused much sectional feeling in most Northern and some Southern States.

National Commission leaders failed to take the instant corrective action that was required. In consequence, the press and other news media spread before the country detailed accounts of the controversy. Coming at a time when the civil rights movement was gaining momentum, this episode attracted national attention, with more heat than light.

President John F. Kennedy saw a solution for the difficulty and tactfully but firmly intervened. In response to his suggestions, members of the National Commission agreed to move the headquarters of the National Assembly to the unsegregated U.S. naval base on the outskirts of Charleston. The ensuing convention proceeded with its work amid only a few expressions of ill will on either side.

Several changes in Commission personnel shortly took place. Under pressure from the Charleston blunder, as well as other considerations, Executive Director Karl S. Betts resigned. Representative Tuck, the vice chairman, resigned in the summer because of increasingly heavy duties in Congress. His successor was Representative Frank Smith of Mississippi. Admiral Ingersoll tendered his resignation a few weeks later. Appointed in his place was Dr. John W. Masland, Jr., provost of Dartmouth College.

That fall the Commission lost the services of its chairman, General Grant. The serious state of Mrs. Grant's health had been a matter of deep concern. As early as 1959, General Grant had talked of resigning; but at the urging of his colleagues, he unselfishly continued to serve the Commission. His family anxieties soon became compelling, and with great reluctance the Commission accepted his resignation. Thus, for a time the Commission was without either a chairman or a staff head.

In this difficult period, Representative Schwengel ably guided the Commission. A member from the outset and, since August 1961, the Commission's vice chairman, he held the agency together and brought it energy, wisdom and a thorough comprehension of the Commission's best purposes. Other members gave him generous and valuable assistance.

The routine work of the Commission continued that fall as Mr. Schwengel and the staff took the first steps to solve a growing and vexatious problem relating to the commemorative medal.

Under arrangements made earlier with the National Commission, a private firm was producing and selling such medals, with royalties accumulating to

the Commission's credit. The Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee voiced objections, on the ground that this arrangement was inconsistent with the Commission's earlier proposal (made to the Judiciary Committee) to have a Centennial Medal struck by the U.S. Mint and distributed on a noncommercial basis. The Commission soon worked out terms whereby commercial production of the medal ceased. All accumulated royalties were deposited in the general fund of the Treasury Department.

Meanwhile, a careful and critical search continued for a new chairman and executive director. In October, President Kennedy appointed Dr. Allan Nevins of Columbia University to Commission membership; and at a December 4 meeting of the Commission, its members enthusiastically elected him chairman. As one of the Nation's most distinguished and productive historians, Dr. Nevins brought the Commission increased scholarly authority, international esteem and thoughtful convictions upon the Civil War and its Centennial.

At the same December conference, the Commission elected Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., of the University of Iowa as executive director. Dr. Robertson is a professionally trained historian with special competence in the Civil War field. The author and editor of numerous books and articles, he was then serving as editor of the scholarly journal, *Civil War History*. On December 26, 1961, Dr. Robertson assumed his new Commission duties. Through the force and warmth of his personality, numerous speeches to local groups, and frequent contacts with State and local commissions, he did much to ease the tensions growing out of the Charleston meeting. In addition, and as stated later in this report, he made several outstanding contributions to the National Commission's publications program.

Commission members took two more important actions late that year. They invited representatives of the State Commissions to meet in Washington early in 1962 for a series of working sessions with the National Commission. Preliminary plans were also made for a public ceremony to mark the centenary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Dr. Nevins made it clear at the outset that full emphasis would be given to the importance of Negro emancipation, and that full recognition would be accorded to the role played by Negro troops in the Civil War.

Dr. Nevins also announced a change of direction and emphasis in some of the Commission's activities:

> We shall use our energies and influence to help make the national commemoration of the Civil War both instructive and constructive. To this end we shall discourage observances that are cheap and tawdry, or that are divisive in temper, or that in any other respect fall short of expressing the magnanimity of the spirit shown by Lincoln and Lee, that fall short of honoring the heroism of the 600,000 men who gave their lives. We shall encourage observances which will assist the American people to understand the mingled tragedy and exaltation of the war, and to draw from it lessons both practical and moral commensurate with its importance. . . .
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> Above all, our central theme will be unity, not division, for out of the brothers' war slowly emerged the basis of a firm union of hearts instead of an uncertain union of jarring political elements. So far as we can we shall allow the just pride of no

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national group to be belittled or besmirched. A host of white southerners died for what they believed a just cause; a host of white northerners died for what they held a sacred duty; a host of Negroes died, many in the uniform of the United States, for the achievement of freedom and human equality. We must honor them all. When we finally reach the commemoration of Appomattox, we shall treat it not as victory or defeat, but as a beginning—the beginning of a century of increasing concord, mutual understanding, and fraternal affection among all sections and social groups of the republic.

The new Commission officers felt strongly that while some commemorations of the Civil War were and would be military in nature, at least equal attention had to be given the great political, social, economic, and cultural developments of the crowded war years. Dr. Nevins's remark that "if the National Commission tries to reenact a battle, my dead body will be the first found on the field," was condemned in some quarters, applauded in others. Although some sham battles occurred thereafter, they were solely the productions of State and local organizations.

Soon after the new chairman and executive director assumed their duties, Senator John Tower (Texas) replaced Senator Carl Curtis as a Commission member. Dr. Wiley became chairman of the executive committee, a post vacant since Mr. Tuck's resignation.

Commission activities regained momentum in the last month of 1961. Dr. Nevins requested his colleagues to consider a number of historical undertakings, in addition to programs already in progress. These new projects included badly needed bibliographies, a topical index to the massive *Official Records,* guides to important battlefields and buildings, and a series of volumes analyzing the war's impact on various phases of American life.

The Chairman explained that this list was tentative, that some projects might be more feasible than others, and that he was not proposing that the Commission itself—with its highly limited resources—take full responsibility for all of the programs. Yet it might, he suggested, undertake one or two of them and sponsor others. The Commission gave its hearty endorsement to these proposals.

INCREASING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

Activities in 1962 began when representatives of State Commissions met January 31 to February 1 with the National Commission in Washington. In a brief address of welcome, Dr. Nevins emphasized the importance of elevating the tone of the commemoration and of pursuing activities of lasting value. A free exchange of ideas and information, with emphasis on the need for closer relations between the National and State Commissions, highlighted subsequent informal discussions.

Following this Washington meeting, Dr. Robertson visited a number of the State Commissions, conferred with their members and staffs, discussed local projects and problems, and pointed out practical ways in which the National Commission might be helpful.

The National Commission next printed treatistes on two nonmilitary landmarks of the Civil War period. It first issued a monograph, *Free Homesteads for All Americans: The Homestead Act of 1862,* written for the Commission by Prof. Paul W. Gates of Cornell University. To mark another contribution to civil progress, Dr. Nevins prepared *The Origins of Land-Grant Colleges and State Universities: A Brief Account of the Morrill Act of 1862 and Its Results.* In compact fashion and lucid style, these small publications interpreted for laymen and scholars alike two important constructive achievements of the war period. The Commission distributed copies of both brochures to schools, libraries and individuals throughout the Nation.

In subsequent years the Commission published other booklets. *The United States on the Eve of the Civil War, As Described by the Census of 1860* was edited by the Bureau of the Census, which generously donated the manuscript to the National Commission. The work was an abridgement of a fascinating century-old report submitted to Congress by Joseph C. G. Kennedy, who directed the taking of that 1860 census.

Our Women of the Sixties, written for the Commission by Sylvia G. L. Dannett of New York City and Katharine M. Jones of Greenville, S.C., was an informative and highly readable account of the wartime activities of women, North and South.

Another booklet, entitled simply *The Civil War,* was the work of Dr. Robertson, the Commission's executive director. Graphically written for younger readers, this 64-page, profusely illustrated volume sketched the major campaigns and gave the reader accurate and impartial information on such topics as navies, diplomacy, prisons, arms and the common soldier.

The Commission distributed all of its publications widely and without charge. Demand was constant and heavy. This was particularly true of *The Civil War.* Two printings, each of 50,000 copies, failed to keep pace with mail requests. Thereafter, the Superintendent of Documents handled printings and distribution of this most popular of Commission publications.

In May 1962, the Fifth National Assembly met in Columbus, Ohio. The emphasis fell on the historical and educational aspects of the Centennial rather than on the mechanics of commemorative activities. The 3-day program represented joint efforts by the National Commission, the Ohio Commission and the Ohio State Historical Society. Educators, teachers, historians, archivists and librarians conducted panel discussions on "The Civil War and Schools," "The Civil War in Books and Sources," and "The Civil War and Music."

A number of editors, broadcast officials and newsmen dealt with "The Civil War and Mass Media." Theirs was probably the most spirited of the Columbus panels, for they were by no means in accord on the role the media ought to play in the Centennial. Yet the very divergence of views was stimulating.

This same emphasis on history and education prevailed at subsequent Assemblies.

At the 1963 Boston meeting, three well-informed physicians conducted

a session on "Civil War Medicine." Six historians in another session evaluated "The Role of New England Governors in the Civil War," while a third panel discussed "Women in the Civil War." Perhaps the liveliest of the 1963 Assembly panel sessions discussed "A Civil War Book: From Conception to Consumption"—as viewed by an author, publisher, bookseller, and reviewer. The speakers included Bruce Catton, Samuel S. Vaughan of Doubleday & Co., P. Morton DeWolfe of Charles E. Lauriat & Co., and Edward A. Laycock, Boston *Globe* book review editor.

Emphasis on history was no less evident at the Seventh National Assembly, held June 10–12, 1964, in Atlanta. Commission Chairman Allan Nevins opened the meeting with a moving address. The civil rights struggle continued, and feelings had just been aroused by the unfortunate exploding of a bomb in a Southern Negro Sunday School. Dr. Nevins tried to recall the large moral significance of the war. He stated:

> Our intent in this commemoration of the Civil War is to avoid tawdry exhibitionism and cheap theatricals; to rise instead to the dignity of the great theme. We hope to cultivate a sense of the grandeur of the subject; of the importance of spiritual dedication to a great cause; of the ennobling character of memories of heroism and sacrifice by leaders on both sides, by soldiers white and colored, by doctors, nurses, and chaplains, and not least by mothers and wives meeting the blow of bereavement. We are poorhearted indeed if we fail to comprehend the faith and devotion which nerved two great peoples to throw their all into the life-or-death struggle.
>
> But our mood is sombre as we recall the hideous penalties of the struggle. Who can measure the potential value of the more than 600,000 young men dead?—the flower of the nation, and for the South in especial almost a lost generation. We sacrificed not alone these serried ranks of young men, but their children, and their children's children. . . .
>
> Our mood is sombre as we recall the devastation of the South, quite as heavy in Mississippi and Louisiana as in Georgia; the horrors of guerilla warfare all along the Border; and worst of all, the moral deterioration, for the war taught lessons of brutality and corruption too easily absorbed, and coarsened the national character.
>
> What alleviation of heart, what lifting of the spirit, can we find in this sombre mood? Only the hope that a fuller scrutiny of the years of Lincoln and Lee, and a deeper appreciation of the devotion, self-sacrifice, and fortitude of men and women as the long carnage went on, may enlarge the nation's vision and fortify its will in our generation, and in generations to come. Let us study the struggle in that hope. . . .
>
> The great battle for a better America still rages, and the line of fire still stretches across the entire American map, North and South. The contest today is against all the forms of poverty, prejudice, and discord. As President Johnson said in this city [Atlanta], the battle lines extend along the shores of Maryland, through the slums of Chicago, and into the dark streets of New York. A hundred years after Cold Harbor and the Wilderness the trumpet yet summons all of us urgently. It calls on us to face not bullets, but subtler barbarisms, and to show an intrepidity of spirit that is often more truly heroic than any intrepidity of the flesh.

At the Seventh National Assembly, one group of panelists carefully assessed the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. Another panel analyzed the Confederate homefront, with special attention to source materials on that subject. A third discussion group considered major problems that confronted one or both sides in the Civil War. Dr. A. B. Moore of the University of Alabama summarized some of the latest findings upon morale and economic factors; the Honorable

Roy K. Davenport compared the manpower and personnel problems of 1864 with those of 1964; and Dr. Charles P. Roland of Tulane University shrewdly evaluated Confederate military leadership.

Wherever possible, formal papers presented at assemblies were mimeographed by the National Commission and distributed without charge upon request. It seems fair to state that of the many Centennial activities that stimulated serious study of the Civil War, few were more effective than the National Assemblies.

TWO SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Until 1962 the National Commission had presented no formal programs of its own. On September 22 of that year, it held a ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the issuance of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Working closely for months with the Department of State and the National Park Service, the Commission had the pleasure of sharing sponsorship of this program with the District of Columbia Centennial Commission and the Lincoln Group of Washington.

A view of the huge throng that gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to mark the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. The program was televised live and coast-to-coast by the three major networks.—*Abbie Rowe, National Park Service*

The late Adlai E. Stevenson is shown delivering the principal address at the Emancipation Proclamation observance. On the left is composer Ulysses Kay and National Commission Chairman Allan Nevins. Immediately behind Ambassador Stevenson are Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Judge Thurgood Marshall and Miss Mahalia Jackson.

The large audience included the Diplomatic Corps, Cabinet members, Governors, members of Congress, military officials, and visitors from many States. A gratifying number of young people of school and college age were also in attendance.

The Emancipation ceremony, with Dr. Nevins presiding, was an impressive and moving event. The Reverend Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplin of the Senate, delivered the invocation. Accompanied by the U.S. Marine Band, Miss Mahalia Jackson sang the National Anthem. Mr. Archibald MacLeish, one of America's most eminent poets, then read an eloquent and sensitive composition, "At the Lincoln Memorial: A Poem for the Centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation." The talented composer, Ulysses Kay, presented a concerto written especially for the occasion. Capt. Dale Harpham led the Marine Band in this first public performance of "Forever Free: A Lincoln Chronicle."

Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York next made a formal gift to the Nation of a copy of the Proclamation, written in Lincoln's hand. The Hon-

orable Thurgood Marshall, Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, spoke briefly but forcefully. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson delivered a memorable address, characteristically penetrating and challenging. By use of a prerecording on video tape, President Kennedy added his thoughts and hopes on the occasion. The singing, by all in attendance, of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" ended the ceremony.

The three major television networks carried this inspiring program coast-to-coast. Several broadcasting agencies repeated it that evening, and the U.S. Information Agency distributed to foreign lands taped and filmed portions of the observances.

The second commemorative event arranged by the Commission took place on the evening of January 13, 1964, in Washington and paid honor to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The date, of course, did not fall on the centennial of the Address, but was chosen for a number of practical reasons.

Dr. Nevins presided over this symposium of five distinguished Americans. Robert Lowell presented a poet's reflections on the Address ("a symbolic and sacramental act") and read a number of his poems. He was followed by a group of eminent speakers, who interpreted four different aspects of the Address:

"Lincoln and His Almost Chosen People," by John Dos Passos;
"Lincoln and the Law," by Arthur L. Goodhart;
"The Religion of Abraham Lincoln," by Reinhold Niebuhr;
"The Significance of Gettysburg," by Paul H. Douglas.

Seldom have five men so distinguished in their separate fields constituted a single panel on one subject. Yet seldom have natural forces been so hostile as they were that evening. Throughout the day Washington suffered under one of the worst blizzards in a decade. As a result, those who attended the symposium scarcely outnumbered the participants and ushers.

Fortunately, the rich wisdom that rewarded the few present soon reached the many. The University of Illinois Press published the symposium papers in a handsome volume, *Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address: Commemorative Papers*. The book contained added scholarship in an introduction by Dr. Nevins and a sixth paper, "Unknown at This Address," by Dr. David C. Mearns.

AWARDS

In 1960 the Committee had decided to recognize outstanding contributions to the commemoration by conferring Centennial Medallions and appropriate certificates.

The Commission presented three special Medallions to Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson. President Eisenhower received his in 1961 from Mr. Betts, a former schoolmate, at a ceremony in Hagerstown, Md. In May 1962, at a White House meeting with Commission members, President Kennedy accepted his Medallion from Dr. Nevins. President Johnson re-

ceived his award in the East Room of the White House on the 1965 anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Dr. Robertson made the presentation before a gathering of distinguished people who included public men, actors, scholars, and National and State Commission members. All were luncheon guests of President and Mrs. Johnson.

Although the Committee on Awards made most of its conferments after the midpoint of the Centennial, something of the variety and scope of the achievements recognized can be gathered from four Medallions presented in the first year of the commemoration. One went to the State of Arkansas for the unique enterprise of its people in acquiring and donating to the National Park Service the site of the Pea Ridge National Military Park. A second Medallion was awarded the *Atlanta Journal & Constitution* for publishing "The Atlanta Century," a weekly newspaper that authentically "reported" major events of the Civil War period as if they were present-day happenings. The Virginia Civil War Commission received a Medallion in 1961 for the magnitude and distinguished quality of its Centennial program. *Civil War History,* a scholarly publication nationally esteemed for the high merits of its articles, was the fourth recipient of the Commission's highest award.

Other agencies and persons honored with the Centennial Medallion were:

Library of Congress
National Archives
National Gallery of Art
National Park Service
United States Navy
Indiana University Press
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.
Louisiana State University Press
University of North Carolina Press
University of Texas Press
Southern Illinois University Press
Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois
District of Columbia Civil War Centennial Commission
Indiana Civil War Centennial Commission
New Jersey Civil War Centennial Commission
North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission
Richmond (Va.) Civil War Centennial Committee
Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission
Chicago Civil War Round Table
District of Columbia Civil War Round Table
Hagerstown Civil War Round Table
Kansas City Civil War Round Table
Kentucky Civil War Round Table
New York Civil War Round Table
Jefferson Davis Association
Ulysses S. Grant Association
Ulysses Kay
Louisville & Nashville Railroad
J. Millard Tawes

A note is perhaps merited on the two last-named recipients of the National Commission's highest award. Governor Tawes of Maryland received a Medallion for his constant and valuable assistance to the Commission in the early stages of the Centennial.

The Louisville & Nashville Railroad received a special award for its restoration to running order of the Civil War locomotive called "The General." This engine, one of two involved in what was later termed "The Great Locomotive Chase," was completely reconstructed by the railroad, along with a passenger car of Civil War date. The train toured the

In a simple White House ceremony in May 1962, the National Commission presented a gold Centennial Medallion to President John F. Kennedy. The President is shown greeting Dr. Nevins. Other Commission personnel are (left to right): Hon. Roy K. Davenport, Assistant Director Edmund C. Gass, Representative Fred Schwengel, Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, Administrative Assistant Harry B. Elkins, Dr. David C. Mearns (partially obscured), and Executive Director James Robertson.—*Abbie Rowe, National Park Service*

One of the most popular attractions of the Centennial was the locomotive, "The General." A principal in the 1862 "Great Locomotive Chase," the engine toured the Nation in the 1962–65 period. More than 175,000 persons watched its Centennial run from Atlanta to Chattanooga.—*C. Norman Beasley*

Nation during the Centennial years, providing interest and pleasure for millions of railroad buffs. Officials of the Louisville & Nashville declared that their most vexing problem was in trying to meet the requests of hundreds of communities desiring a visit from this unique train.

The National Commission also recognized the valuable accomplishments of many other individuals and organizations. Its Awards Committee conferred no fewer than 225 certificates for such diverse contributions as pageants, concerts and exhibits held at various places throughout the country; for meritorious radio and television programs; for well-attended lectures and other educational programs, as well as for activity in marking notable Civil War sites, North and South.

THE FIELD OF SCHOLARSHIP

Beginning in 1962, the National Commission increasingly concentrated its energies upon four major undertakings in the area of scholarship.

Two of these projects, both resting primarily on the labors of other organizations, were undertakings to collect, edit and publish the papers of Ulysses S. Grant and Jefferson Davis. It seemed almost a reproach to history that the writings of these two prominent Americans had not already been published with definitive thoroughness and in accordance with rigorous standards of scholarship. That an urgent need existed for each of the two compilations was a fully demonstrated fact.

To realize one of the aims, representatives of the Illinois, Ohio and New York State Commissions established the nonprofit Ulysses S. Grant Association. The three Commissions contributed initial funds for planning and organization; the Ohio State Museum furnished temporary working quarters for the first small staff; and Dr. John Y. Simon of Ohio State University was selected as executive director and managing editor. Four National Commission representatives—Drs. Catton, Mearns, Nevins and Robertson—were Directors of the Association, while Dr. Wiley served on its editorial board.

These men assisted the Association in developing editorial standards and materials, in enlisting the cooperation of research specialists and libraries, in a search for source materials, and in obtaining funds for operating costs. While these were personal labors, the National Commission assisted by publicizing the work of the Association and helping make working arrangements with the National Archives and the National Historical Publications Commission.

Later, when Southern Illinois University generously offered permanent quarters to the Association, it shifted operations to that institution. There the Association profited from the aid of the Illinois State Historical Society and its head, Mr. Clyde C. Walton. In 1967 the first volume of *The Papers of U. S. Grant* was published.

The National Commission gave the same encouragement to the Jefferson

Davis project. Representative Frank Smith first urged the Commission to sponsor this undertaking. After he retired from Congress, Messrs. Nevins, Wiley, Robertson, Tower, and Yarborough continued to press the project.

Rice University soon offered to act as cosponsor and to provide quarters and office equipment. Drs. Frank E. Vandiver and Haskell M. Monroe, Jr., historians at Rice and Texas A. & M. Universities, respectively, expressed willingness to undertake the large task of collecting and editing Jefferson Davis's correspondence and other papers. To carry out these arrangements, the nonprofit Jefferson Davis Association was formed, with Drs. Nevins, Robertson, and Wiley as members of the advisory board. On the recommendation of the National Commission, a number of Southern State Commissions contributed money to the Association. Dr. Wiley met notable success in persuading private firms to give substantial sums.

These two ambitious editorial undertakings, certain to serve the highest purposes of the Centennial for years to come, are a source of deep satisfaction to the National Commission.

The third scholarly enterprise was one for which the Commission itself assumed primary responsibility: an annotated bibliography of the most useful and utilized books about the Civil War.

The need for such a work had long been evident. The sheer number of printed works on the subject (40,000 being a conservative estimate) was so overwhelming that not even experienced students—to say nothing of the layman—could plot an intelligent course through them. This bibliography offers, for the first time, both guidance and evaluation. The 5,000 titles

The Commission's two-volume, critical bibliography of Civil War books was the subject of a March 7, 1964, organizational meeting at Commission headquarters. Discussing the project are (left to right): Profs. Daniel W. Hollis, Bell I. Wiley, May S. Ringold, Martin Abbott, Archer Jones, and James Robertson.

annotated are listed under 15 subject headings. A recognized, professional historian prepared each section. Following each title is a succinct comment describing and evaluating the book. The subject headings, together with their compilers, are as follows:

MILITARY ASPECTS—MOBILIZATION, ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPLY, by Archer Jones, University of South Carolina
MILITARY ASPECTS—CAMPAIGNS, by Warren W. Hassler, Jr., Pennsylvania State University
MILITARY ASPECTS—SOLDIER LIFE, by James I. Robertson, Jr., Virginia Polytechnic Institute
THE NEGRO, by Dudley T. Cornish, Kansas State College at Pittsburg
DIPLOMACY, by Norman Ferris, Middle Tennessee State University
THE NAVIES, by Tom Wells, Northwest Louisiana College
PRISONS AND PRISONERS OF WAR, by Frank L. Byrne, Kent State University
GENERAL WORKS, by E. B. Long, Research Assistant to Allan Nevins and Bruce Catton
BIOGRAPHIES, MEMOIRS AND COLLECTED WORKS, by Robert W. Johannsen, University of Illinois
THE UNION—GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, by Rodney C. Loehr, University of Minnesota
THE UNION—SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, by John T. Hubbell, Kent State University
THE UNION—STATE AND LOCAL STUDIES, by William E. Parrish, Westminster College
THE CONFEDERACY—GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, by Martin Abbott, University of South Florida
THE CONFEDERACY—SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, by May S. Ringold, Mississippi State College for Women
THE CONFEDERACY—STATE AND LOCAL STUDIES, by Thomas A. Belser, Jr., Auburn University

Drs. Nevins, Robertson and Wiley served as general editors of the bibliography, with Dr. Robertson continuing to act as managing editor even after his return in 1965 to professorial duties. In 1967 the Louisiana State University Press published Volume I, and it is expected to release the second and concluding volume in the spring of 1969.

It is a wonder that so huge an undertaking was carried through at all. The Commission's restricted funds, the enormous number of titles with which the compilers had to deal, the limitations of time as the Centennial drew to an end, and the great difficulty in finding expert bibliographical workers, were problems of an almost overwhelming degree. Yet the bibliography has been hailed with all but unanimous praise. In a review of the first volume, one scholar termed it "one of the most useful books yet published in the field of the American Civil War." He added: "The editors and their collaborators attained, in carrying out their task, a very high degree of excellence, and deserve not only praise, but warm gratitude from every historian in the field of the American Civil War."

Volume II of the bibliography will do more than merely complete this pathbreaking project. In addition to its eight sections, it will also contain

an index of approximately 12,000 entries that refer to each book listed in the two volumes by author, title, and subject matter. Prepared by Dr. Robertson, this cross-referenced guide will enhance immeasurably both the use and the usefulness of *Civil War Books: A Critical Bibliography.*

Commission sponsorship supported the fourth major work of scholarship, the "Impact Series," consisting of 15 detailed studies tracing and analyzing the impact of the Civil War on as many nonmilitary aspects of American life. Each volume will be the product of fresh research by one or more authorities in the field; each will present a highly factual account as well as an intepretation of the more important developments in its area.

Dr. Nevins, at the outset of his association with the Commission, proposed the "Impact Series." As general editor, he enlisted the numerous authors involved and arranged for Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., to publish the volumes.

In 1965 the first of these studies—*Agriculture and the Civil War,* by Paul W. Gates of Cornell University—was published. The second volume, *Bonnet Brigades,* by Mary Elizabeth Massey of Winthrop College, appeared the following year and treats of the war's influence on northern and southern women.

The scope of forthcoming volumes in the "Impact Series" is evident from the following subjects to be covered (here listed with authors' names):

POVERTY, CRIME, CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS, by Robert Bremmer, Ohio State University

LITERATURE, SCHOLARSHIP AND ART, by Daniel Aaron, Smith College, and Edward Lurie, Wayne State University

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY LAW, by Harold Hyman, University of Illinois

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP, by William Greenleaf, University of New Hampshire

MEDICINE AND SURGERY, by William Bean, University of Iowa Medical School, and William F. Norwood, Loma Linda University Medical School

ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION, by Richard Harwell, Librarian of Smith College

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, by Robert V. Bruce, Boston University

THE NEGRO, by Leon Litwack, University of Wisconsin

LABOR, by Herbert Gutman, State University of New York at Buffalo

GOVERNMENT PROCESSES, by Daniel J. Elazar, Temple University

MILITARY IDEAS AND PRACTICES, by Cyril Fall, formerly of Oxford University

EUROPEAN LIFE AND LIBERALISM, by H. C. Allen, University of London, Harry Bernstein, Brooklyn College, David H. Pinkney, University of Missouri, and John A. Hawgood, University of Birmingham

NORTHERN WRITINGS AND WRITERS ON THE WAR, by James I. Robertson, Jr., Virginia Polytechnic Institute

The Commission believes that the "Impact Series" will be a valuable contribution to learning and a stimulus to the broadening of serious study of the Civil War and its long-term consequences.

Although work on the annotated bibliography and "Impact Series" is still in progress, the National Commission's major labors terminated in 1965 with the conclusion of Centennial observances. Some exacting tasks remained to be accomplished in closing the Commission's affairs. During the final months, the late Edmund C. Gass served as Acting Executive Director.

AN END AND A BEGINNING

In 1965 a series of memorable ceremonies marked the end of the Civil War Centennial. The first occurred on February 12, when President and Mrs. Johnson hosted a luncheon in the White House for a select group of Centennial officials and persons of national repute. President Johnson told the audience on that anniversary of Lincoln's birth: "Almost alone among the figures of history we honor him not so much for what he did, but for what he stood for; not so much for the acts he performed, but for the spirit of that ideal America he embodies. Each generation of Americans stands charged, before the court of history, to answer the challenge of Lincoln to the American will and to the American heart."

On April 9, at Appomattox, the Governor of Virginia, other public officers, and thousands of interested Americans attended a commemoration of Lee's surrender to Grant. Symbolic of the spirit of the occasion was the presence together of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant 3d, and Robert E. Lee, IV, grandson and great-grandson of the men who met there a century earlier. The principal speaker was noted historian Bruce Catton, who stated of Grant and Lee: "Their meeting was proof that these leaders of rival armies would thereafter have one common country, and on April 9 they served that country well."

Two weeks later, on April 25, Gov. Dan K. Moore led a host of North Carolinians to the spot on the outskirts of Durham where Gens. Joseph E. Johnston and William T. Sherman had met a hundred years earlier and concluded a peace. The Bennett Place, as this site is known, had long symbolized more than the end of the Civil War. As early as 1925, the Bennett Place Memorial Association had erected there a tall double column, surmounted by a simple arch that proclaimed one word: Unity. President Eisenhower had stressed this theme in his 1960 proclamation calling on the Nation to observe the Centennial. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, principal speaker at the Bennett Place ceremony, employed the same theme in a way that made the day both a solemn dedication of purpose and a happy occasion.

The same theme of unity and concord that had been emphasized at the White House, Appomattox and Durham commemorations gave vitality and meaning to the Eighth National Assembly, held April 30–May 4, 1965, in Springfield, Ill. Joining the National Commission as sponsors were the Illinois Centennial Commission, the Illinois State Historical Society, the Illinois State Historical Library, and the Nation's Civil War Round Tables.

On February 12, 1965, the Commission's executive director, Dr. James Robertson, presented a special Centennial Medallion to President Lyndon B. Johnson at ceremonies held in the East Room of the White House. National and State Commission leaders are shown on the left. The group around the President includes: Mrs. Johnson, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, Dr. Robertson, Mr. Johnson, and Representative Emilio Daddario.

U.S. Grant 3d, and Robert E. Lee, IV, at Appomattox's McLean House, where their forebears a century earlier ended the Civil War.—*S. B. Robertson*

The 1965 Eighth National Assembly, held in Springfield, Ill., set a record for attendance. Shown above are a portion of the delegates at one of the Assembly luncheons.

Rep. Paul Findlay is pictured delivering the principal address as Lincoln's Springfield home became a National Historic Landmark. This dedication was part of the Commission's Eighth National Assembly.

Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois lent full support at every stage of the arrangements and personally attended most of the sessions.

This final Assembly was a moving blend of drama, music, poetry, art, friendly badinage and serious discussion. The Historical Library prepared a special exhibit of Lincolniana; the Southern Illinois University Players presented Mark Van Doren's "The Last Days of Lincoln: A Play"; Miss Gwendolyn Brooks read an original poem, "In the Time of Detachment, In the Time of Cold"; Representative Paul Findlay spoke from the steps of Lincoln's home in accepting its designation by the National Park Service as a National Historic Landmark.

At the Kelso Hollow Theater in New Salem Park, the Ray Tate Singers rendered folksongs of the war period, and Norman Luboff directed four high school choirs in a concert of spirituals. The Illinois General Assembly held a special joint session in the Old State Capitol where the legislature met in Lincoln's day. Governor Kerner gave a reception for all Assembly delegates at the Mansion.

Accompanying these events were two major addresses. On May 2, Senator Paul H. Douglas spoke on "Lincoln: World Symbol of Freedom." The following evening, Bruce Catton gave his reflections on "The End of the Centennial." At one of the panel sessions, Drs. Nevins and Paul M. Angle reviewed current scholarship with respect to both Lincoln and the Civil War. Three eminent historians—Avery O. Craven, Harold M. Hyman and E. B. Long—at another session conducted a spirited and informative debate on the causative factors of the Civil War.

At a plenary session of this Eighth National Assembly, Drs. John Y. Simon and Haskell M. Monroe, Jr., reported on their progress in editing the papers of U.S. Grant and Jefferson Davis, while Dr. Robertson described the "Impact Series" and Dr. Wiley told of the National Commission's annotated bibliography of Civil War books.

The Assembly closed on both a reflective and a happy note. At the Lincoln Tomb, on the morning of May 4, Governor Kerner and other Assembly delegates listened to Adlai E. Stevenson, Jr. (speaking for his father) read brief but eloquent lines of tribute to the wartime President. Thereafter, at the luncheon concluding the Assembly, Dr. Robertson voiced the National Assembly's thanks and farewell, doing this with earnest sincerity but also rich humor—the delight of the audience being heightened by the spontaneous interjections of friendly thrusts by Governor Kerner, Representative Schwengel, and other guests at the head table.

Happiness, then, was the note on which the Eighth National Assembly closed.

That Assembly can be regarded as a culmination of the commemoration, for it reflected the Centennial's variety of expressions in ceremony, pageantry, discourse and scholarship. It also reflected the hope of all who participated that the gathering marked "the beginning of a century of increasing concord, mutual understanding, and fraternal affection among all sections and social groups of the republic."

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Federal Departments and Agencies

ASIDE from giving valuable support to the National Commission, various branches of the Federal Government played an important part in the 1961–65 commemoration. This they did by drawing on their large resources of talent and specialized competence.

THE CONGRESS

The role of the Congress was vital. Not only did it establish both the National Commission and the District of Columbia Civil War Centennial Commission. It generously supported the program of the National Park Service in improving and expanding the facilities of nearly 30 Civil War sites administered by the Service. Members of the Senate and House of Representatives rendered great assistance to Centennial endeavors in their home communities. They frequently helped to arrange local Centennial observances, enlisted approporiate assistance by Federal agencies, and, by statements made on the floor of Congress, in fact commemorated persons and events of the war throughout the Centennial period.

In addition, Congress arranged impressive public ceremonies officially marking both the First and the Second Inaugurations of Abraham Lincoln. As these observances fell on the centennial dates—March 4, 1961, and March 4, 1965—they represented Congress's direct participation near the outset and near the close of the memorial period. The Joint Committee of Congress for the 1961 program consisted of Senators Paul H. Douglas, Everett M. Dirksen, John Sherman Cooper, and Vance Hartke, plus Representatives Peter F. Mack, Jr., Winfield K. Denton, Fred Schwengel and William G. Bray. The 1965 Joint Committee was identical, except that Representatives Melvin K. Price and Paul Findlay replaced Messrs. Mack and Schwengel. In both ceremonies, Mr. Schwengel, with characteristic energy—but no budget, undertook countless tasks of arranging and producing the programs.

Both these splendid ceremonies were held at noon on the east front of the Capitol, where presidents are traditionally inducted into office.

At the 1961 program, the son of a Confederate soldier, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, welcomed the assemblage of 20,000 persons. The late Carl Sandburg then addressed the gathering. He commented on the "little gnarled nuggets of wisdom" in Lincoln's first inaugural address and then

compared the Nation's promises in 1861 with those of 1961. Sandburg observed:

There are careless generations who drift, dawdle, decay. Still others leave tall landmarks of liberty, of discovery, invention, and culture, setting targets of achievement at which no succeeding generation can take a horse laugh of derision and belittlement.

What the young people want and dream across the next 100 years will shape history more than any other motivation to be named.

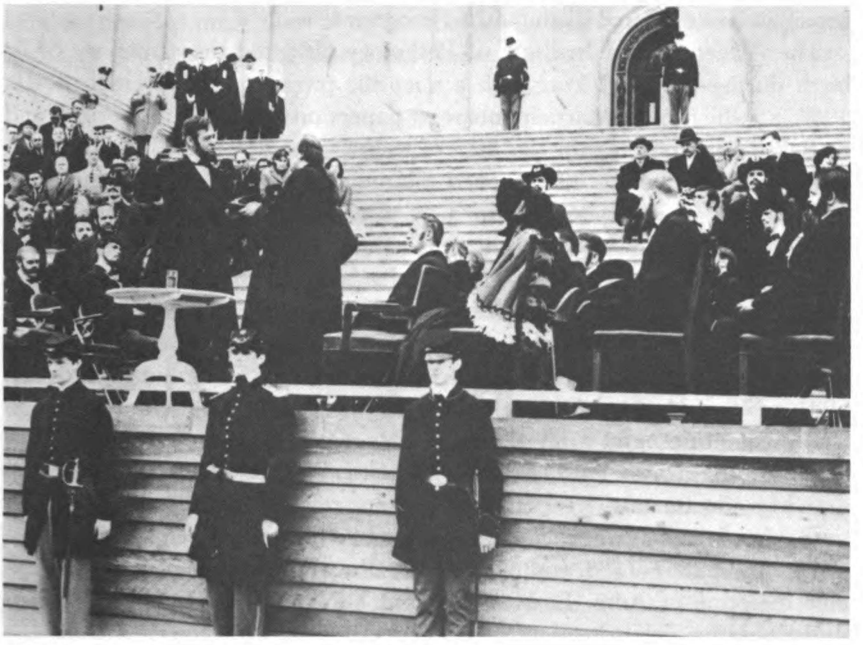
Youth now living and youth as yet unborn hold the seeds and secrets of the folds to be unfolded in the shapes to come.

None shall lock back on this hour and say we did not have hope and faith.

Following Mr. Sandburg's address, the 1861 Inauguration was reenacted amid trappings strikingly similar to the originals. John C. Collison of Richmond, Va., impersonated Lincoln, while other costumed actors represented the leading participants of a century earlier.

The 1965 commemoration of Lincoln's Second Inaugural followed a similar and impressive format. Speaker of the House John W. McCormack and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey greeted the large audience. Bruce Catton delivered the main address, which challenged the Nation to fulfill at once its century-old promises of liberty and equality for all. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson described the historical background of Lincoln's Second Inaugural in a blend of wit and eloquence, and the noted actor Robert Ryan portrayed Lincoln in the inaugural reenactment that followed.

Noted actor Robert Ryan portrayed Lincoln in a 1965 re-creation of the Second Inaugural, staged on the East Front of the U.S. Capitol.



On both occasions the audience included members of Congress, the Chief Justice, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and thousands of schoolchildren with their parents and teachers. On both occasions, moreover, the major networks televised at least part of the program.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Department of Defense gave wholehearted support to the Centennial. It took part in commemorative exercises sponsored by other agencies, and carried out excellent projects of its own.

As early as 1958, the Department announced that, subject always to its defense duties and regular budgets, it would gladly cooperate with the National and State Commissions and with local sponsors of anniversary programs. Organizations seeking Service participation were to clear their requests through the National Commission.

During the four years of the Centennial, the Services took part in scores of activities marking Civil War anniversaries. The reenactments of Bull Run, Wilson's Creek, and Antietam depended heavily on logistical and other support by Army units. In cities and towns across the land, units from nearby installations of the Services took part in anniversary parades and pageants.

Color guards, rifle squads and buglers appeared with dignity at innumerable memorial services, while musical organizations—including bands from many bases—gave strength to a host of Centennial observances. The U.S. Marine Band, the U.S. Army Band, the U.S. Navy Band and other musical organizations rendered distinguished programs.

The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology observed the centenary of its birth during the Civil War with a scientific program on November 9–10, 1962, at which noted participants read papers on the Institute's origin and on subsequent progress in the field of military medicine and pathology. A few days later, the Institute opened a large exhibit on Civil War medicine and surgery. This display remained on view until the following spring. As its final contribution to the Centennial, the Institute published a scholarly volume, *The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology: Its First Century, 1862–1962,* prepared by Col. Robert Selph Henry.

Variety marked the Centennial activities of the Navy. Its divers found ships sunk during the Civil War off the coast of North Carolina. From one of these, the *Modern Greece,* divers recovered such valuable artifacts as lead ingots, rifles, and surgical instruments. At Decatur House in Washington, and the Navy Yard, exhibits of Civil War photographs, uniforms, drawings, documents, weapons and other memorabilia reflecting the wartime role of the Navy attracted large crowds. The scholarly *Civil War Naval Chronology, 1861–1865,* compiled by the Naval History Division under the able direction of Adm. E. M. Eller, and published in six parts, provided students with a rich store of information in attractive form.

Of the Army's many contributions to the Centennial, two deserve special mention. The August 1961, issue of the *Army Information Digest* was devoted entirely to the Army and soldiers of the Civil War. Its 128 pages contained a foreword by Secretary of the Army Elvis J. Stahr and 16 excellent articles on a wide range of topics. Besides the regular distribution of this booklet to all military installations, the Superintendent of Documents sold thousands of copies to the public.

The Army's other notable Centennial project consisted of three displays by the Army Exhibit Unit. Of the many visual presentations developed during the commemoration, these alone actually went to the people on a nationwide basis. By tractor-trailer, soldier crews took these exhibits on separate and almost continuous 4-year tours. Two Army exhibitions were of the indoor type ideal for exhibit halls. The third was housed in an expansible van that required only parking space. The van unit was thus able to serve scores of smaller towns that had no appropriate indoor display space.

The theme of these exhibits was the contribution of the Civil War to the development of the Nation's military progress. Animated dioramas vividly depicted eight major battles, and colorful orthoramas reviewed the role of artillery. Medical care of the sick and wounded was graphically portrayed, as was the heroism of many young boys on both sides who, enlisting as orderlies or musicians, quickly became combat soldiers. Other sections of these exhibits treated camp life, art and the homefront.

So great was the demand for bookings of these three Army exhibits that, although the indoor displays were retired with the end of the Centennial in April 1965, the van continued on tour until November. Altogether, the Army exhibits traveled more than 270,000 miles in 41 States, and visited 259 communities. Almost 7 million Americans viewed them.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

As its contribution to the Centennial, the Post Office Department issued five commemorative stamps, one each year of the observance.

The decision to limit the series to five stamps was by no means easy, for rarely has the Department been subjected to such insistent pressures for a large number of commemorative stamps. Countless individuals and organizations urged that this or that Civil War event or person be memorialized. Had the Post Office Department yielded to these pressures, the Centennial commemorative stamp series would have been debased. By holding the total to five, the Department produced a coherent and attractive series of stamps.

They commemorated Fort Sumter, Shiloh, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Appomattox. The Post Office Department arranged ceremonial first-day issuances of each stamp at the memorialized site on the anniversary date. The initial printing of each stamp exceeded 100 million, and first-day sales averaged about 1 million. Artists for the designs accepted included

Pictured above are the five designs chosen by the Post Office Department for its 1961–65 Civil War commemorative stamps.—*U.S. Post Office Department*

Charles R. Chickering, Noel Sickles, Roy Gjertson, Harold Christenson, and Leonard Fellman.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Because it administered nearly 30 Civil War sites, the National Park Service had an unusual involvement in the Centennial. It established no fewer than four of those sites during the Centennial years: Pea Ridge National Military Park in Arkansas, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park in Missouri, the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Indiana, and the Frederick Douglass Home in Washington, D.C. The Service also acquired Fort Moultrie, in Charleston harbor, and added it to the Fort Sumter National Monument.

Of greater importance to the Nation and the preservation of its historic sites was the "Mission 66" program, authorized by Congress and conducted by the National Park Service. This broad program of improving the Parks physically and otherwise applied to all National Park areas. The Service made every effort to complete its improvement of Civil War sites by the date of that site's Centennial commemoration. The imposing new Visitor's Center at Gettysburg was one of the outstanding achievements made under the aegis of "Mission 66."

Under this same program, the Park Service added approximately 3,000 acres to its Civil War areas, a figure that does not include the four newly acquired parks. Most of the new acreage was at Harpers Ferry, Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas, and Fort Donelson. Virtually all of the 520 acres added to the Gettysburg National Military Park were donated to the Federal Government by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and other private organizations.

In addition, the Park Service erected new Visitor Centers at Harpers Ferry, Pea Ridge, Fort Donelson, Antietam, Gettysburg, Stone's River, Chancellorsville, and Appomattox. It installed new museums and exhibits in a number of these centers, constructed extensive walking trails, erected scores of interpretative markers and site-identification signs, and increased its Park staffs to accommodate the vast number of visitors to Civil War sites.

Restoration, reconstruction and stabilization of historic structures were outstanding features of the Park Service's Centennial work. At Harpers Ferry alone the Service stabilized no fewer than 15 historic buildings. At Appomattox the Service restored the Mariah Wright House, the interior of the Meeks Store and the interior of the County Jail. It reconstructed the outbuildings of the McLean House and the exterior of the old Court House itself. These buildings, together with 130 acres of historic fields, were dedicated at special Centennial ceremonies in April 1965.

With funds contributed by the State of Maryland, the Park Service reconstructed the Dunkard Church on the Antietam battlefield.

Of all Civil War restoration projects undertaken by the Service, however, by far the most ambitious was that of Ford's Theatre, in Washington, D.C., the place of Lincoln's assassination. A careful study was made of the history and architectural features of the building. Then, with funds appropriated by Congress, the Park Service restored the theatre in precise detail to its appearance on that fateful night. Dedicatory services were held late in January 1968.

The Civil War parks were sites of scores of ceremonies during the Centennial, including major battle reenactments at Manassas and Antietam, mass tributes at the Lincoln Memorial (September 1962) and at Gettysburg (July and November 1963), plus many dedications of new monuments and rededications of others.

The various Civil War parks hosted an astonishingly large tide of visitors during the Centennial years. Americans continue to come to the battle

sites in ever-increasing numbers, always appreciative of the labors of the National Park Service.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

No participant in the Centennial contributed more than did the Library of Congress. Direct service to the public was an outstanding feature of the Library's Centennial work. Thousands of Americans sought its assistance in Centennial programs on national, state and local levels.

The Library's response was eminently practical. It prepared a series of useful "resource books," including:

(1) *The American Civil War: A Selected Reading List,* by Donald H. Mugridge;

(2) *Civil War Maps: An Annotated List of Maps and Atlases in Map Collection of the Library of Congress,* compiled by Richard W. Stephenson;

George B. Hartzog, Jr. (right), Director of the National Park Service, receives the National Commission's highest award from Commission Assistant Director Edmund C. Gass.

(3) *Civil War Photographs, 1861–1865: A Catalogue of Copy Negatives . . . from the Mathew B. Brady Collection in . . . the Library of Congress,* compiled by Hirst D. Milhollen and Donald H. Mugridge;

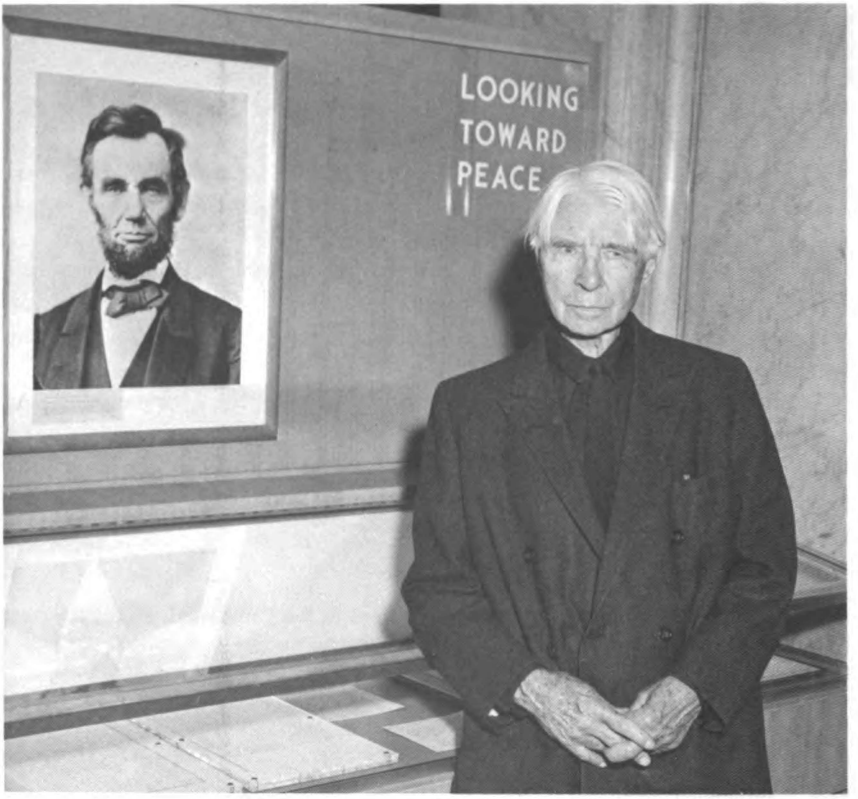
(4) *The Civil War in Pictures: A Chronological List of Selected Pictorial Works,* prepared by Donald H. Mugridge;

(5) *The Civil War in Motion Pictures: A Bibliography of Films Produced in the United States since 1897,* by Paul C. Spehr and his colleagues in the Library's Motion Picture Section.

As host to the September 21, 1963 annual meeting of the Manuscript Society, the Library of Congress presented a unique Centennial program. Fourteen descendants of Union and Confederate generals read wartime letters written by their forebears.

On the centenary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Library published a folio-sized brochure entitled *Long Remembered.* It contained facsimiles of the five surviving manuscripts of the Address in Lincoln's handwriting, with authoritative notes by David C. Mearns and Lloyd Dunlap on the preparation of the Address.

Of the National Park Service's many contributions to the Centennial, one of the most long-lasting was the reconstruction of Ford's Theatre, the site of Lincoln's assassination. The photograph below shows restorative work being done on the building's exterior.—*Abbie Rowe, National Park Service*



The late Carl Sandburg poses beside a portion of the Library of Congress Centennial Exhibit, which included a photograph of the man Sandburg helped immortalize.—*Library of Congress*

On April 12–14, 1965, Mark Van Doren's drama, "The Last Days of Lincoln: A Play," was presented in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium. Sheppard Strudwick and Hope Cameron were in the leading roles. Two weeks later, on the same stage, the Arnold Moss Company performed "The Year That Trembled: 1865—A Centennial Observance in Words and Music." The program included dramatic readings from the works of Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, Ambrose Bierce, Stephen Crane, and Stephen Vincent Benet.

Spanning almost the full Centennial period was the Library's exhibit, "The American Civil War." On October 25, 1961, a memorial program in the Collidge Auditorium formally opened the display. The U.S. Army Chorus sang songs of the North and South, and Carl Sandburg delivered a moving address (later published by the Library).

The exhibit, which occupied the Great Hall, consisted of 250 items drawn from the Library's collection of manuscripts, prints, photographs, maps,

drawings, sheet music, pamphlets, recruiting posters and newspaper extras. The millions who viewed the exhibit pronounced it a superb educational feature of the Centennial. A printed catalogue was provided by the Library. The wealth of information in this volume gives it a high place in the literature of the Centennial.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

The expanding role of the National Archives and Records Service in Scholarship was evident in its Centennial activities. Four works prepared by its staff illustrate the role:

Civil War Maps in the National Archives a 127-page guide to 8,000 maps and charts;

Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War, compiled by Kenneth W. Munden and Henry P. Beers, lists under broad headings Civil War records in the National Archives for the Federal side;

"Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America," prepared by Dr. Beers, is scheduled for publication late in 1968 as a companion volume to the above work;

"A Guide-Index to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861–1865," compiled by Dr. Dallas Irvine, Senior Specialist in Military Archives, will provide users of the 128-volume *Official Records* with a quick finding-device to items not in the original index. When published (arrangements are still pending), this compilation will be a major contribution to Civil War scholarship. Its textural portions are brilliant interpretive history.

Possibly one of the most far-reaching Centennial projects undertaken by the National Archives was the microfilming of large segments of its Civil War holdings. Positive prints were then made available to scholars and institutions throughout tthe Nation. Altogether, the Archives microfilmed more than 30 million pieces. These are now catalogued in *List of Microfilm Publications,* which can be obtained from the Archieves.

Throughout the Centennial, the staff of the National Archives responded to many thousands of requests for information on the War. Specialists searched the Archives's vast store of documentary sources, as Americans in overwhelming numbers sought facts about individual soldiers or sailors who served in the War. The Archives met many of these requests with skill and efficiency.

Similar services were rendered in the area of Civil War pictures. Miss Josephine Cobb, an authority on photographs and drawings of the period, identified hundreds of illustrations submitted by organizations and individuals, and she generously assisted in the formation of Civil War pictorial exhibits in various sections of the Nation.

Visitors to the National Archives enjoyed two large and superb Centennial exhibits. One marked President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. On

January 4, 1963, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy opened the display of 23 documents and photographs, including original drafts of both the preliminary and the final proclamations. As part of its memorial activities, the Archives prepared facsimiles of the Emancipation Proclamation in exact size on fine-quality paper, together with a short history of the document. It was sold to the public at nominal cost.

The second and larger exhibit was on display throughout the Centennial period. It provided a panoramic survey of the War by 350 documents, maps, photographs, sketches and works of art depicting major military campaigns, technology, medicine, surgery, espionage, recruiting, and camp life. More than 5 million persons viewed this exhibit.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Staff members of the Smithsonian Institution gave expert technical advice to scores of organizations in the planning of Centennial displays. They answered a flood of inquiries about stamps, money, medals, flags, and ordnance of the Civil War period. They also gave valuable aid to scholars engaged in research on technical aspects of the War.

In addition, two units of the Smithsonian Institution contributed directly to the commemoration. The Museum of History and Technology prepared a 61-page booklet, *Uniform Regulations for the Army of the United States, 1861,* that reproduced the text of the official Army regulations on uniform and dress at the outset of the War. It included a select bibliography and 36 full-page, War Department photographs of the period, each illustrating one or more features of the prescribed uniforms of the Federal army. This splendid booklet became one of the Centennial's most popular publications.

The National Gallery of Art, a division of the Smithsonian Institution, featured music, drawings and water colors in its Centennial programs. On four occasions, Richard Bales and the National Gallery Orchestra presented public concerts of Civil War music. They were accompanied in three performances by the Church of the Reformation Cantata Choir. The National Gallery's 1961 exhibit was devoted exclusively to sketches, drawings and water colors by Civil War combat artists. Some of the pictures belonged to the Gallery; yet most of them were loaned by two individuals and no fewer than 16 institutions ranging from South Carolina to Wisconsin. This exhibit enabled the public for the first time to see 281 historic originals, which the Gallery's catalogue aptly termed "visual testimony of eyewitnesses."

U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY

Various units of the U.S. Information Agency took note of the Centennial. Its libraries abroad made many Civil War books available to overseas readers.

On the anniversaries of Gettysburg and Appomattox, the Voice of America broadcast special programs linking the Civil War with current civil rights developments. The Agency's Press Service distributed to foreign news media feature articles on Lincoln's most outstanding wartime actions.

The anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation inspired special activities by the USIA. It placed in its overseas libraries many booklets treating of the famous document and containing articles by Robert F. Kennedy, Hubert H. Humphrey, Edward R. Murrow and others. Following the National Commission's Emancipation Proclamation ceremony, the USIA sent newspapers and broadcasters abroad the texts of the remarks made by all who participated in that program.

Organizations Honor the Past

AMERICANS commemorated the Civil War in many and varied ways, and through a great diversity of organizations. Many of the agencies were an outgrowth of the Centennial, while older organizations regeared their programs for the centenary. It is impossible to recount here the activities of every group associated with the Centennial. The actions and programs of a select number of these bodies will illustrate the variety of Centennial undertakings.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES

Few private organizations brought such energetic, sustained and effective support to the Centennial as did the Civil War Round Tables. From modest beginnings a little more than a decade before 1960, these clubs of Civil War enthusiasts grew rapidly in number and size. By 1962, no fewer than 125 Round Tables flourished from New England to California (with "cousin" clubs in Canada, England and Australia).

Each included laymen and scholars, and each chose its own Centennial role. Collectively, however, the Round Tables generated a nationwide interest in the commemoration through monthly meetings featuring guest speakers, floor discussion of Civil War battles and leaders, periodic newsletters (which revealed a remarkably wide body of readers), and through related activities.

The Round Tables also arranged and conducted local broadcasts, generally panel discussions on specific Civil War topics. In addition to distributing Civil War booklets and reading lists to schools, they supplied speakers for school assembly programs and for meetings of civic and service organizations. They conducted tours of Civil War sites, contributed feature articles to newspapers, and served as hosts to State and regional meetings of other groups engaged in Centennial work. Some Round Tables gave funds for research and publication in the field of Civil War history. At least two groups organized study programs among inmates of penal and correctional institutions.

In uncounted ways, the Round Tables gave support to the National Commission. At the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth National Assemblies, the Boston Atlanta, and Chicago Round Tables assisted in handling local arrangements and in providing entertainment and hospitality for the delegates.

AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

The Centennial was of special interest to the American National Red Cross because it traces its practical origins to the Civil War. It can claim a degree of succession from the wartime U.S. Sanitary Commission, and a link with with Clara Barton, whose work in providing care for sick and wounded soldiers during the War made it almost inevitable that she would later become a founder of the American Red Cross and its first director.

It was this link with Miss Barton and her war work that both the national and local chapters of the Red Cross stressed throughout the Centennial. The national chapter published several brief articles on Miss Barton's wartime ministrations in its *Newsletter*. To mark the centennial of her initial services, the national chapter issued a 51-page booklet on the scope of Red Cross services to the Armed Forces. It further stressed the Clara Barton theme in its 1961 Annual Report Film, in speakers' kits, feature sheets, and background materials prepared by its Public Information Office. One program of the Army's television series, "The Big Picture," underscored Miss Barton's humanitarian labors during the Civil War.

The Centennial was the occasion for the dedication of numerous memorials to Miss Barton, ranging from modest plaques to impressive stone monuments. Of the latter, one stands at Fairfax, Va., where Miss Barton helped the wounded of two battles. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, President of the American National Red Cross, was principal speaker at the 1961 dedicatory services. A year later, under the sponsorship of the Washington County (Md.) Chapter of the Red Cross, a second memorial to Miss Barton was placed on the Antietam battlefield, General Gruenther again delivering the principal address.

HEREDITARY AND ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS

Members of hereditary organizations that stemmed more or less directly from the Civil War had a sense of personal involvement in the Centennial. Representing the North were the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the Sons of Union Veterans, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the National Society of Daughters of the Union, and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861–1865. Leading organizations in the South were the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The hereditary organizations undertook a number of special commemorative projects. The Loyal Legion's Library and Museum, acting with the Pennsylvania Commandery of the Legion, purchased and donated to the National Park Service two tracts vital to rounding out and preserving the Gettysburg battlefield. The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War prepared and distributed useful booklets on Northern women and Civil

War leaders, and donated to the Nation a memorial carrilon in the Gettysburg National Military Park.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy presented to the American people an oil portrait of Robert E. Lee, which the Department of State accepted at a special ceremony, and which now hangs in Blair House in Washington, where Lee a century earlier declined a proffer of the command of the Union armies. The U.D.C. also placed a tablet honoring Matthew Fontaine Maury, "Pathfinder of the Seas," in the Hydrographic Office of the U.S. Navy, and it joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans in unveiling at Gettysburg in August 1965, a new and striking monument to the South's fighting men. Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., delivered the dedicatory address.

One of the oldest organizations to take part in the Centennial was the Czechoslovak Society of America, founded in 1854. Its *Official Journal* carried a variety of articles about Czechs who served in the Civil War.

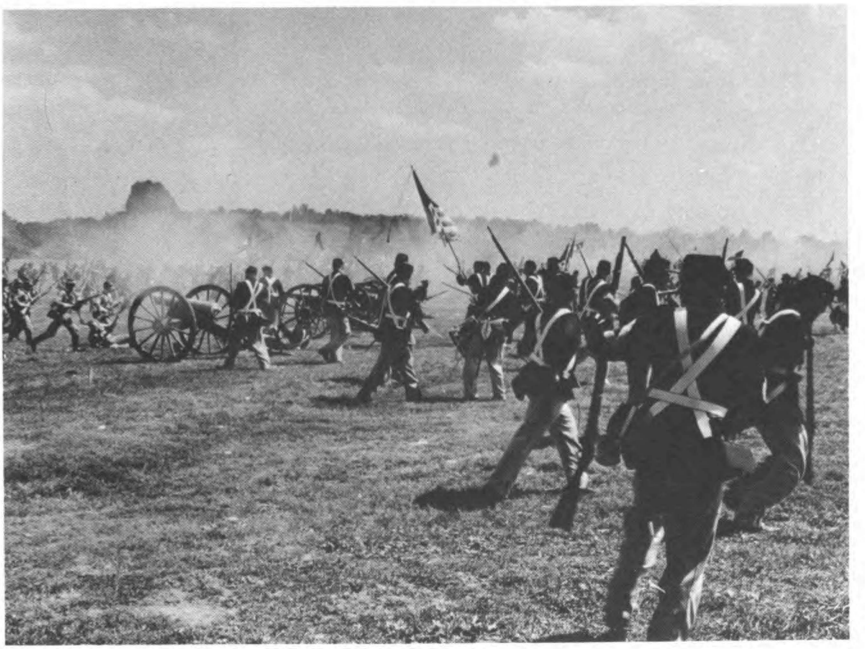
Jewish organizations made an assortment of contributions to the Centennial. At the outset, the B'nai B'rith *Program Guide for the Observance of the Civil War Centennial* took its place as a useful manual for groups. Special services honoring Jews at the battles of Antietam, Gettysburg and Cold Harbor were staged, and a number of programs called attention to the role of Jewish chaplains in the War.

BATTLE REENACTMENTS

Public opinion was sharply divided as to the wisdom—even the propriety—of battle reenactments. Yet they were a part of the Centennial. First Manassas, Philippi, Wilson's Creek, Antietam and Kennesaw Mountain were the subjects of major reenactments, while the battles of Carthage, Winchester, Bentonville, Franklin, Nashville, and numerous engagements in Georgia and the Carolinas were recreated on a smaller scale. Frequently, only a selected segment of historic combat was the subject for a reenactment. For example, at Harpers Ferry in 1959, the partcipants depicted only the storming of the fort and the capture of John Brown.

State Commissions sometimes sponsored these mock battles. Local Committees, private groups and individual enthusiasts often undertook the planning and logistics. Although the National Commission never officially sponsored a sham battle, it worked so closely with the arrangers of the First Manassas reenactment that it all but placed the Commission imprimatur on the event. The Armed Forces in general, and the Army in particular, assisted in the staging of a number of mock engagements.

By far the largest and most spectacular of the battle reenactments was that of First Manassas. To most of the 100,000 spectators who, in July 1961, saw 4,000 men restage the fighting, it was a huge success. Yet its very success as a show precipitated a sharp debate between proponents and opponents of sham battles. Defenders asserted that reenactments provided realism, color and



On July 21, 1961, at Manassas, Va., northerners and southerners of several "re-activated" units participated in a re-creation of the Civil War's first major land battle. The above photograph shows "Stonewall" Jackson's Confederates overrunning a Federal battery on famed Henry House Hill.

pageantry, that they enabled a great many people to take a direct part in the Centennial, and that they brought authentic sights and sounds of the Civil War to even greater numbers of persons. The opponents felt these claims to be more theoretical than real. Above all, the opponents deplored the intrusions of commercialism and a carnival atmosphere which, they stated, were an affront to good taste and an abuse to history. The debate over this question was never resolved.

HIGHER EDUCATION

In 1961–62, the Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and its 68 member schools marked the centennial of one of the profoundly important nonmilitary events of the Civil War: the Morrill Land-Grant Act. Beginning with a presidential proclamation, the year-long program included ceremonies honoring Senator Justin S. Morrill, author of the Act; a Centennial Convocation in Kansas City; and a Centennial observance at the University of Nebraska. Campuses throughout the Nation witnessed other Land-Grant programs.

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Many universities and colleges directly memorialized the Civil War in a wide range of activities. In 1960–61, New York University offered a weekly series of Civil War lectures primarily for adults. In the autumn of 1961, Northwestern University sponsored a symposium that brought to the campus the scholarly insights of historians Bruce Catton, David Donald, Ralph G. Newman, James I. Robertson, Jr., Charles P. Roland, and T. Harry Williams. (The major papers presented at this meeting were later published by Northwestern University in an attractive volume.) The George Washington University sponsored a special one-semester television course on Civil War source materials. Mr. Robert H. Land of the Library of Congress conducted the series.

Thanks to the generosity of Frank Palumbo of Chicago, Carthage College in Wisconsin held elaborate 1963 dedicatory ceremonies for a Civil War museum containing many artifacts of the War and original copies of the famous Currier & Ives lithographs. Gettysburg College hosted two different annual gatherings devoted to Civil War study, one series bringing both academic experts and interested laymen to the campus each summer for stimulating panel discussions, and the other consisting of lectures each autumn by eminent historians who offered fresh and challenging theses on major themes of the Civil War.

Conspicuously active among university presses were those of Indiana, Louisiana State, North Carolina and Texas, which republished out-of-print Civil War books and a host of new studies, stimulating fresh research in that field of history.

EXHIBITS

In addition to the many Centennial exhibits already cited, elaborate displays were staged by a number of business and private organizations.

For instance, the Allstate Insurance Co. prepared one on wartime medicine. Nationwide Insurance Co. sponsored another of Currier & Ives prints, both firms carrying their exhibits to various cities across the Nation.

"Photography and the Civil War" was the theme of a graphic presentation by the Ansco Division of General Aniline and Film Corporation. Featured were 100 unique Mathew Brady photographs, reproduced for the first time from original glass plates. The exhibit was displayed in a number of locales, including a 6-week showing in New York City.

The daily life of the Civil War soldier comprised the theme of an outstanding exhibit at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Many of the drawings and paintings were executed by soldiers themselves during their wartime services. An unusual feature of this exhibit was its inclusion of sculpture.

Superior by any standard was the exhibit on "The American Jew in the Civil War," sponsored by the Jewish Historical Civil War Centennial Commission, an ad hoc body headed by Justin G. Turner of Los Angeles. Representing the labors of no less than eight major organizations and institutions, this display of historic documents, photographs, letters and artifacts vividly

Typical of window displays calling attention to events of the 1860's was this Lincoln assassination scene produced by Woodward & Lothrop's Department Store in Washington, D.C.—*Woodward & Lothrop*

Robert Shosteck, Curator of the B'nai B'rith Civil War Centennial Exhibit in Washington, points out several rare documents to the note-taking Chairman of the National Commission, Dr. Allan Nevins.

portrayed the broad impact of the War on the American Jewish community, the civic and military service of Jews on both sides, and works of art and literature on Lincoln and the war by Jewish artists and authors. Senator Ralph W. Yarborough was principal speaker at the official opening of this display in Klutznick Exhibit Hall in Washington, D.C. Following a 1-year showing there, the exhibit was carried to New York, Richmond, Detroit, and Los Angeles.

In Virginia, quite aside from the displays arranged by the State Commission and local Centennial groups, were a number of attractive Civil War exhibits that drew a large volume of visitors. The Confederate Museum and the Valentine Museum, which long antedated the Centennial, handled record numbers of tourists during the 4-year commemoration. Particularly noteworthy among other exhibits were an animated diorama in the Mariners Museum at Newport News of the historic *Monitor-Merrimac* clash, and the Richmond Academy of Medicine's superb display on Confederate medicine.

MUSIC

No American conflict ever evoked a greater outpouring of music among soldiers and civilians alike as did the Civil War. It was therefore fitting that, during the entirety of the Centennial, bands and choral groups of the Armed Forces, orchestras, and hundreds of school and community musical groups recalled in concerts the unforgettable music of the 1860's.

Several original contributions in honor of the past were as follows: Ulysses Kay's composition, "Forever Free," first played at the National Commission's 1962 Emancipation Proclamation ceremony; "This Sacred Ground," a symphony composed by David Diamond under commission by the Buffalo *Evening News;* and "A Ballad of the North and South," by Paul M. Angle, Earl S. Miers and Norman Lockwood, weaving Civil War melodies into a fresh and original composition.

Sheet music collections of wartime songs were issued in some profusion. Four 1961 publications were: *Songs of the Blue and the Gray, Songs of the North and South, 1860–1865, Songs of the Union,* and *Songs of the Confederacy.*

Among phonographic recordings for the Centennial, four were outstanding. "Songs of the Civil War," by Frank Warner and his two sons, faithfully reflected the diction and tones in which ordinary soldiers of a century ago sang their ballads. The voices of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir recreated the moods of a divided nation in an album, "Songs of the North and South, 1861–1865." A most unusual Centennial recording was the excellent album, "The Civil War—Its Music and Sounds." Musicians of the Eastman Wind Ensemble played the music of Union and Confederate army bands from contemporary scores and on the actual instruments of that period.

Midway through the Centennial, international acclaim for a British Broadcasting Corp. concert of Civil War songs was so great that the BBC

readily consented to a commercial distribution of the recording. One of America's largest record companies reproduced the concert, performed by the Lansdowne Orchestra and the George Mitchell Chorale, and distributed it under the title, "The Blue and the Gray."

Two excellent books about Civil War music are associated with the Centennial. *Songs of the Civil War,* compiled by Irwin Sibler, appeared on the eve of the commemoration and traced the origin and history of each of the many tunes. Kenneth A. Barnard's *Lincoln and the Music of the Civil War,* published shortly after the Centennial period, described and interpreted an American era through its music.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

Newspapers, reporting and taking part in the Centennial, called attention to commemorative events considered nationally or regionally newsworthy—such as the reenactments of the Lincoln Inaugurals, the National Commission's Emancipation Proclamation program, Pennsylvania's 1963 tributes to Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Address, and the First Manassas and Antietam battle reenactments.

The Nation's daily newspapers performed a most useful service in reporting State and local Centennial commemorative events. This is not surprising; for while the ceremonies covered were of genuine interest to readers, many editors and reporters themselves are Civil War enthusiasts and thus had more than mere curiosity in the various ceremonies.

On a daily or weekly basis, many papers carried summaries of events that occurred precisely a century earlier. Of special note were the Buffalo *Evening News,* Nashville *Banner,* Raleigh *Times,* Washington *Sunday Star* and *West Virginia Hillbilly.* At least two simulated weekly newspapers flourished throughout the Centennial, each devoted to a journalistic summary of the War as if it were current news. One of these, the *Atlanta Century,* has already been mentioned. The other was the *Valley Echo News,* published by the Potomac Edison Co. of Hagerstown, Md.

Scores of newspapers published major articles, special editions, or entire supplements commemorating events of the Civil War. Noteworthy among these were the Charleston (S.C.) *News & Courier,* Columbus (Ohio) *Dispatch,* Danville (Va.) *Register,* Des Moines *Register,* Denver *Post,* Gettysburg *Times,* Louisville *Courier-Journal,* Nashville *Tennesseean,* St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* and Columbia (S.C.) *Record.*

Other newspapers making outstanding contributions to the Centennial were the Cleveland *Plain Dealer,* which published three illuminating series of articles and distributed to public schools a pictorial history of the war; and the New York *Times,* which published a 40-page supplement on the War and the reconstruction period, and whose *Times Magazine* carried twice each year of the Centennial stimulating Civil War articles by Bruce Catton.

Few periodicals of general circulation showed more than an occasional and passing interest in the Centennial. Notable exceptions were *American Heritage, Life,* and the *Saturday Evening Post.*

BROADCASTS

The broadcasting industry's response to the Centennial was generally enthusiastic, especially in connection with local pageants, concerts, memorial ceremonies or battle reenactments. Stations in many communities carried panel discussions of war topics with representatives of various Centennial commissions and agencies.

Some stations went further. For example, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, broadcaster produced a series of programs making skillful use of still pictures of the War; an Atlanta station broadcast a brief daily chronology of the War; an Indianapolis station produced a televised account of Indiana's part in the conflict; and three North Carolina broadcasters sponsored dramas of the War from scripts by outstanding authors.

In contrast, the television networks showed far less interest in the commemoration. Some carried public observances of national news value, and they never failed to give coverage to controversies arising during the Centennial; but they rarely did more. Westinghouse Broadcasting Co. alone produced a continuing program in connection with the centenary: a 13-part series entitled "The American Civil War." In 1962 the Columbia Broadcasting Co. televised "A Pair of Boots," a moving war drama by Mort R. Lewis, who was nominated for the Writer's Guild of America Award. CBS also produced "Eisenhower on Lincoln—A Military Tribute," a stimulating conversation between the General and Bruce Catton.,

The fact that television's participation was modest disappointed many persons. Perhaps networks and/or sponsors felt that latent sectional attitudes, together with the rising civil rights movement of the period, provided a dubious atmosphere for Civil War programs.

The Communities Remember

NATIONAL Commission officials never wavered from their belief that the State and local Centennial Commissions were "the keystone of the arch upon which the Centennial program rests." Events fully substantiated this axiom; for without the varied and multitudinous activities of these agencies, the Centennial would have reached relatively few Americans and hence would have been of only limited success.

THE STATE COMMISSIONS

The State Commissions fulfilled the National Commission's hope that, wherever possible, ceremonies and commemorations would be staged on local levels. This not only brought the 100th anniversary of the Civil War to more persons, but it also gave those acquainted with Civil War history in their own localities a better opportunity to participate actively in the observances. Moreover, the State Commissions often acted as intermediaries between local groups and the Washington agency, relieving the latter of a host of details.

Contributions to the Centennial by the State Commissions can never be overemphasized, and the National Commission is happy to record its gratitude for the assistance, support and innumerable services rendered by these bodies.

The movement for the creation of State Commissions began at the May 1958, Governor's Conference, when J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., of Virginia urged his fellow governors to organize Centennial agencies within their respective States. Thereafter, Messrs. Grant, Betts and Virgil C. Jones of the National Commission labored tirelessly to get official State agencies created. Working with key individuals in various States, the leaders of the National Commission were eminently successful. Nineteen State Commissions were organized and at work by the end of 1958; 10 others went into operation during the first three months of the following year. In all, 45 States and the District of Columbia established officially sanctioned Commissions. (Only Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, and North Dakota failed to create an agency for the commemoration of the Civil War Centennial.)

All of the 46 Commissions shared in the work of staging periodic State programs; encouraging activities of city, county and regional agencies; sponsoring essay contests; issuing books, filmstrips, guides and bulletins; erecting highway markers to call attention to Civil War events; collecting

letters, diaries and other manuscript material; renovating monuments; and—in the case of the Delaware, Florida, South Carolina, and Texas Commissions—erecting new monuments on major battlefields.

A valuable buttress of the general Centennial program was furnished by a series of regional meetings. The first took place at St. Louis in February 1959, when Commission representatives from five Mississippi Valley States met to discuss a general program for their area. In the autumn of that same year, the New England State Commissions held the first of seven symposia. These 1-day conferences were well-attended and open to the general public. Sites of the meetings were established on a rotational basis, so as to allow each State agency to act in turn as host—thereby calling visual attention to its own projects. The Midwest State Commissions followed a similar format of regional conclaves, although their meetings were less frequent and not regularly scheduled.

Much the most cohesive of the regional associations was the Confederate States Conference, organized in 1960 by Commissions representing the 11 States of the Confederacy. The Honorable John A. May, Chairman of the South Carolina Commission, served as permanent head. This group held stated meetings twice each year, and other sessions were convened at the call of the Chairman. That the Confederate States Conference achieved impressive goals is best attested by the fact that four of its 11 member Commissions received the National Commission's Centennial Medallion.

On several occasions, two or more State Commissions worked in conjunction on special programs.

Early in the Centennial, a number of Confederate flags captured in battle by Indiana troops were found in the basement of the War Memorial in Indianapolis. Carl A. Zenor, Chairman of the Indiana Commission, suggested to Gov. Mathew E. Welsh that they be restored and returned to the South. Truly emotional moments in the Centennial occurred when, in solemn ceremonies, Gov. Welsh presented the standards to the governors of Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

In 1961, representatives from the State Commissions of New Jersey, Virginia and Alabama met on the Salem Church battlefield. There the participants rededicated a tablet erected in 1909 by New Jersey veterans "to the brave Alabama boys, our opponents on this field of honor, whose memory we honor."

Seven State Commissions—Indiana, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia—took part in a month-long program marking the centennial of the battle of Chickamauga. In October 1964 the Governors of Kansas and Missouri headed a list of dignitaries who met together in southeastern Kansas to commemorate the battle of Mine Creek. After friendly repartee between the two executives, a "neutral"—National Commission Director James Robertson—delivered a memorial address.

Appropriately, one of the last Centennial ceremonies was the September 1965, dedication on the Fredericksburg, Va., battlefield of a monument to

Sculptor Felix DeWeldon's model of the monument to Richard Kirkland, the "Angel of Marye's Heights." The finished memorial now stands on the Fredericksburg, Virginia, battlefield.

Confederate soldier Richard Kirkland, who, during the great battle voluntarily gave water and comfort to dozens of wounded Union troops. While the Fredericksburg Civil War Centennial Committee sponsored the dedicatory ceremonies, it received generous support from the South Carolina and Virginia Commissions, as well as from a number of other organizations.

Space limitations prohibit a detailed account of the contributions of each State Commission to the Centennial. Final reports of a number of these agencies were printed. The major achievements of the following recipients of the National Commission's highest award are indicative of the varied labors of the State Commissions.

District of Columbia—Its many public ceremonies were varied and impressive. In November 1961, the Commission staged a program at the National Gallery of Art on the origins of the song, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." A few months later, the Commission honored Civil War recipients of the Medal of Honor with a memorial service in Washington. Ceremonies were held in 1964 marking Grant's assumption of supreme command of the Union armies and the centennial of the battle of Fort Stevens. In 1965, Chairman Paul J. Sedgwick superintended a reenactment of Lincoln's Second Inaugural, a program marking the assassination of the 16th President, and a restaging of the Grand Review.

ILLINOIS—This Commission did so much to sustain the project of publishing the papers of U. S. Grant that in this alone it earned the Centennial Medallion. Yet under Executive Secretary Clyde C. Walton, the Commission sponsored a joint legislative session commemorating Stephen A. Douglas's plea for preservation of the Union. It issued a number of teaching guides on the Civil War period for use in the State's school system, published useful bibliographies, underwrote a book-length history of the State's military contributions to the War, and produced several observances relative to Abraham Lincoln. The tireless labors of the Illinois Commission in handling local arrangements and aspects of the program for the Eighth and largest of the National Assemblies are worthy of the highest commendation.

INDIANA—Indiana's act in returning captured Confederate battleflags to five Southern States was among the most moving of Centennial ceremonies. The Indiana Commission also met unsurpassed success in its statewide search for letters, diaries and other such materials of the war years. Under its direction, the State Department of Archives secured—for either permanent deposit or temporary loan for microfilming—more than 16,000 manuscript pieces. In addition, the Commission erected more than 90 highway markers pointing out Civil War sites of significance in the Hoosier State. It prepared a 35 mm. filmstrip (and accompanying manual) and distributed a copy to every school in the State with a seventh or eighth grade.

NEW JERSEY—With Chairman Donald Flamm and Executive Director Everett J. Landers as leading spirits, this Commission sponsored a 1961 joint session of the State legislature at which actor Anthony Quinn reenacted President-Elect Lincoln's appearance before the lawmakers a century earlier. Each year the Commission sponsored an historical workshop, where State and nationally known figures discussed topics before always-large audiences. The proceedings of these symposia were published. The New Jersey agency completed its work by underwriting the publication of the more than 630 war letters of Gen. Robert McAllister.

NORTH CAROLINA—Few State Commissions matched the North Carolina organization in the scope of its Centennial program, which was under the direction of Executive Secretary Norman C. Larson and Publicity Director Bob Jones. This agency achieved nationwide attention by enlisting the aid of U.S. Navy divers and salvage crews in underwater searches for sunken blockade runners near the mouth of the Cape Fear River. Several ships were located, and literally tons of arms, ammunition and other accoutrements were brought to the surface, treated with preservants and deposited with the State. The Commission also assisted in successful efforts at Kinston, N.C., to raise the Confederate ram *Neuse* from her river grave.

The North Carolina Commission's monthly newsletter was a storehouse of national and local information. This agency also issued two general accounts of the State's wartime role, a summary of the famous regimental band of the 26th North Carolina, and a detailed history of the 6th North Carolina. Its long-range project—a multivolume, descriptive roster of the

State's 185,000 Confederate soldiers—is still in progress. Volume I appeared in 1966 and covers the artillery units.

TENNESSEE—The Tennessee Commission did a remarkable job in meeting the high demands on its labors, time and funds. Chairman Stanley F. Horn and Executive Director Campbell H. Brown made certain that all observances were the products of careful thought and unfailing dignity. Major memorial services at Shiloh (1962), at Chickamauga and Chattanooga (1963), and at Franklin and Nashville (1964) all bore solemnity fitting the occasions. Moreover, this State organization produced a filmstrip and several concise directories before issuing three major publications: a two-volume roster of troops, and an anthology of personal accounts compiled by Chairman Horn.

VIRGINIA—As one of the first Centennial Commissions established, and with one of the largest budgets of any agency connected with the centenary, the Virginia Commission became a model for many State and local agencies. Only 7 months after the Centennial officially began, this organization was honored with the National Commission's Centennial Medallion.

How best to memorialize 1,147 Civil War events in the Old Dominion was the major problem. Under the directorship of James J. Geary, the Virginia Commission developed a wide-ranging series of projects, the core of its program being the Centennial Center. This circular, domed Commission headquarters in downtown Richmond opened in October 1961, and was

The Virginia Civil War Commission's Centennial Center was one of the most attractive and popular sites connected with the commemorative observances. To the right of the American and Virginia flags are four national standards used at various times by the Southern Confederacy.

undeniably the most impressive museum constructed during the Centennial. On permanent display in the Center were artifacts, photographs, electric maps, and dioramas. Films and recordings were available to the public on regular schedules. Receptionists readily answered queries from the more than 631,000 visitors who flocked to the Center.

The Commissions's first public ceremonies occurred in Richmond and Washington on the centennial of the ill-fated 1861 Peace Convention. "How appropriate it is," Gov. J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., remarked on this occasion, "that the commemoration really gets underway on the theme of peace."

Thereafter, the Virginia Commission reenacted the 1862 inauguration of Jefferson Davis, and closed its program with a nationally publicized observance at Appomattox. Working with the 136 local Centennial Committees in Virginia, the State Commission sponsored statewide meetings, established a circle tour of the Shenandoah Valley battle sites, and erected 200 highway markers to direct tourists to historic places.

At the same time, the Commission issued a monthly newsletter and numerous brochures, which it followed with such larger works as a summary entitled *Iron Gate to the Confederacy,* a unique and useful guide to Virginia military organizations, and a large and scholarly work—prepared by Clifford Dowdey and Louis H. Manarin—containing the wartime papers of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Because of the supreme prominence of Virginia in the Civil War, much was expected from its State Commission. Thanks to superb leadership, a generous legislature, and a dedicated staff, much was produced.

WISCONSIN—A limited budget did not deter the Wisconsin Commission from carrying out valuable activities. To provide a firm basis for its work, it established five permanent committees on education, promotion and publicity, memorial celebrations, acquisitions, and publications. The educational projects of the Commission included eight grants-in-aid to historians engaged in studies of Wisconsin's war efforts, a filmstrip, radio and television tapes, and a history-mobile exhibit, "Meet Mr. Lincoln." In 1961 the Commission rededicated Camp Randall on the University of Wisconsin campus. To honor the "Iron Brigade," the Commission gave two Civil War cannon to the Manassas National Battlefield Park. State commemorations marked the centennials of the Emancipation Proclamation, the battle of Gettysburg, and Lincoln's death.

In the field of publications, the Wisconsin Commission particularly excelled. Among the six books that it sponsored were a new and annotated edition of Col. Rufus R. Dawes' *Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers,* edited by Alan Nolan; *The Empty Sleeve: A Biography of Lucius Fairchild,* by Sam Ross; and *The View from Headquarters: The Civil War Letters of Harvey Reid,* edited by Frank L. Byrne. The Commission's successful efforts in collecting soldiers' letters and diaries pave the way for additional studies.

All of the 45 State Commissions had programs that were diversified and valuable. Some were unique, if not extraordinary.

The work of the California Commission was especially commendable in

view of the fact that it received no funds from the State. The generosity of such Commission members as Chairman Justin G. Turner not only enabled it to stay alive, but to be the leading Centennial agency on the west coast. In addition to providing numerous exhibits, lectures and symposia, this Commission called attention to the U.S. Naval Squadron in the Pacific and that fleet's wartime and postwar part in restoring constitutional government to Mexico. Under the Commission's second Chairman, Col. William L. Shaw, it memorialized John A. Sutter, Jr., whose remains were removed from Acapulco in March 1964, and reinterred with elaborate rites in Sacramento, the city the elder Sutter was instrumental in founding.

The tragic 1862 Sioux Uprising was the central feature in the Minnesota Commission's program. Several ceremonies sponsored by State and local organizations marked the 100th anniversary of that singular event.

The Pennsylvania Commission devoted itself to marking with elaborate ceremonies the battle of Gettysburg and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. More than 50,000 persons attended the July 1–3, 1963, centennial of the most famous battle of the war. Speeches, monument dedications or rededications, and a symbolic reenactment of Pickett's Charge were prominent in the program. Four months later, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower led a throng of 10,000 people who gathered to honor Lincoln and the best remembered address in American history. A climax of this commemoration was a special message from President Kennedy:

> From the past man obtains the insights, wisdom and hope to face with confidence the uncertainties of the future. Abraham Lincoln was keenly aware of this when, a century ago, he journeyed to Gettysburg to make "a few appropriate remarks."
>
> Today, as we honor Lincoln's immortal eulogy to the dead on Cemetery Ridge, let us remember as well those thousands of American patriots whose graves at home, beneath the sea and in distant lands are silent sentries of our heritage.
>
> Lincoln and others did indeed give us "a new birth of freedom," but the goals of liberty and freedom, the obligations of keeping ours a government of and by the people, are never-ending.
>
> On this solemn occasion, let us all rededicate ourselves to the perpetuation of those ideals of which Lincoln spoke so luminously.
>
> As Americans, we can do no less.

It is ironic that Mr. Kennedy's moving tribute to our first assassinated President was has last public statement before departing for Dallas.

New York was the last large Eastern State to create a Centennial Commission; most regrettably, it was the first large State agency to expire (1963). The action of Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in discontinuing the Commission was widely lamented. During its brief life, and guided by Chairman Bruce Catton, the New York agency issued a monthly magazine profusely illustrated and highly meritorious in both content and format. In 1961 the State ceremonially transferred to the Manassas National Battlefield Park 126 acres of land on which Empire State units had fought a century earlier.

The Oklahoma Commission, headed by Henry B. Bass, functioned for a year without official funds. Its members contributed generously until—and sometimes after—the legislature granted a limited appropriation. The

Commission stressed the wartime roles of Gen. Stand Watie and his Indian troops; in addition, it memorialized such little-known battles and sites as Middle Boggy, Tamaha, Cabin Creek, Fort Washita, and Fort Towson.

Chairman John A. May's South Carolina Commission gained national attention for one of its several projects. The Commission supervised the construction of a full-scale replica of the famous Confederate submarine, *H. L. Hunley*. The underwater craft was displayed throughout the Palmetto State, and attracted so much attention that booking the *Hunley* for out-of-state appearances became all but impossible.

At the outset of its program, the Michigan Commission determined to devote its major energies to a series of booklets highlighting specific contributions to the War by the Wolverine State. Chairman Floyd L. Haight was the sparkplug for this project. As the bibliography at the end of this Report shows, the Michigan Commission issued an extremely impressive array of 25 scholarly monographs. The value of these works—many of them reprinted a number of times—continues long after the official conclusion of the Civil War Centennial.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEES

Bringing the Centennial program to the grassroots level was in some respects as necessary to the success of the nationwide observance as was the work of Federal and State Commissions. In many cases, local Centennial Committees played a most vital role; for only through them could events and persons from the hinterlands or relatively isolated areas be properly memorialized. Similarly, in areas such as Virginia and Tennessee the presence of the Civil War was so constant, deep and far-reaching that the State Commission could not effectively commemorate every happening or participant of note.

The local Committees thus broadened the sweep of the Centennial by supplementing the large and "general" programs with their own, smaller and "particular" undertakings. This third level of commemoration actively involved additional thousands of Americans who might otherwise have had little opportunity to take part in the Centennial.

The fact that the study of local history received in 1961–65 unprecedented emphasis is a direct result of commendable labors of more than 300 locally oriented Civil War Centennial Committees. The American Association for State and Local History has acknowledged that this renaissance of enthusiasm for regional history was a consequence of the work of the Centennial Commission and the local organizations connected with it.

In identifying only a few of the more outstanding local groups, we must naturally begin with the Richmond, Va., Civil War Centennial Committee. It was the only local body to receive the National Commission's highest award. In the quality and diversity of its program, this agency eclipsed

Dr. James Robertson (left), Executive Director of the National Commission, presents the Centennial Medallion to the Honorable J. Ambler Johnston, Chairman of the Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee. The ceremony took place in the chambers of the Richmond City Council.

some of the State Commissions, particularly those removed from the scene of the War, or severely limited in resources.

The principal officers of the Richmond Committee were Chairman J. Ambler Johnston and Executive Secretary Robert W. Waitt, Jr. Under their leadership, the Committee first issued two maps of wartime Richmond. It held ceremonies in May 1961, at surviving earthworks on the Seven Pines battlefield. A symposium sponsored by the Committee on the "Birth of Military Aviation in America" called attention to the use by Union troops of reconnaissance balloons in the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The Committee marked this session by publishing a booklet on Confederate aeronautics.

Working with the city's Recreation and Parks Department, the Richmond Committee for two summers presented a series of dramatic sketches on Civil War themes. It took long strides to assist scholarship by establishing an organization for the compilation and publication of a comprehensive index to the 52-volume *Southern Historical Society Papers*. That project,

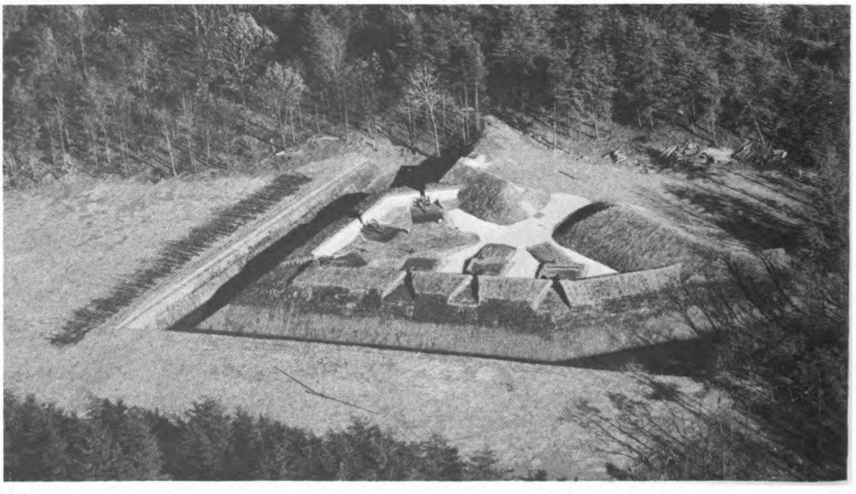
now nearing completion, was eagerly awaited by all who delve into that indispensable source for Confederate history.

The Richmond Committee did not rest on its laurels after receiving the Centennial Medallion in June 1963. Thereafter, it published a folio of 16 maps detailing the battle of Cold Harbor; it issued a leaflet on Libby Prison, a brochure on Richmond's military hospitals, and published excerpts from the diary of Gen. Godfrey Weitzel, whose Federal XXV Corps occupied the city in the last days of the war. The Committee's final contribution was an exceedingly handsome volume, *Richmond at War,* edited by Dr. Louis H. Manarin. This book contains the wartime minutes of the City Council, with biographical sketches, newspaper excerpts, and other valuable data that have already made it a basic source for any study of the Confederate capital. This publication was a fitting climax to one of the most well-rounded programs by any Centennial organization.

A sister agency, Dr. Raiford E. Sumner's Fredericksburg Civil War Centennial Committee, held a number of memorial services on battlefields in the Fredericksburg area, arranged several public meetings at which nationally known figures delivered addresses, and in 1965 was instrumental in erecting the monument to Sgt. Richard Kirkland, the "Angel of Marye's Heights."

Of the more than 135 local Centennial Committees in Virginia, that of Alexandria also deserves praise. It displayed commendable persistence in what seemed at first an impossible endeavor: the restoration of Fort Ward. Although this central point in the Virginia defenses of Washington had escaped the population explosion in that area, it was in a state of almost total disrepair. The Alexandria Committee marshaled its forces, enlisted

The restored northwest face of Fort Ward, in the western suburbs of Alexandria, Va. Named for the first naval officer killed in the Civil War, the fort was one of the largest of the 68 bastions that encircled wartime Washington.—*Marler*



the aid of the U.S. Corps of Engineers from Fort Belvoir, and near the end of the Centennial proudly opened one of the most meticulously restored Civil War forts in existence.

In 1895–96, Fitzgerald, Ga., was founded solely by Union veterans—many of whom had marched through Georgia with Sherman. This unique settlement gave the city much to commemorate in the centenary period, and its Centennial Committee fulfilled well all expectations. The city marked its existence as a wedding of blue and gray with public programs, a series of newspaper articles, memorial services, and a play appropriately entitled "Our Friends, The Enemy."

In Louisville, Ky., one of the pivotal cities of the Civil War, the Centennial Committee under Frank G. Rankin staged public ceremonies, supervised several publications, and in July 1963, sponsored a unique stern-wheeler steamboat trip down the Ohio River to mark the anniversary of Gen. John Hunt Morgan's raid into Indiana.

The Columbus, Ga., Civil War Centennial Committee performed a notable service by raising the Confederate ironclad *Muscogee* from the Chattahoochee River. The vessel is now on permanent display in Columbus.

A similar venture, but one on a larger scale, was undertaken by the State of Mississippi in conjunction with officials of the Vicksburg National Military Park. This was the raising of the 512-ton U.S.S. *Cairo,* a Federal ironclad sunk by mines in the Yazoo River during the war's second year. Many adversities hampered salvage operations; two men died in the efforts to raise the enormous craft. Yet much of the vessel was eventually brought to the surface, and attempts are now underway to secure funds for the complete restoration of the "Hardluck Ironclad."

The casemate shield and paddle wheel spider of the ironclad *Cairo* emerge from the Yazoo River after 102 years of interment. The intricacies of this vast undertaking are visible in the barges, cranes, etc., in operation.

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It is regrettable that space does not permit further descriptions of the work of local Centennial Committees, for their efforts were numerous and praiseworthy. City and county agencies performed a host of services in the interest of the American heritage. Many regional historical societies published special issues of scholarly journals that were devoted to the Civil War and its centennial. Dozens of these groups were honored with awards and citations from the National Commission. Yet a countless number, content to exalt native sons and local events in solemn but unheralded fashion, were doubtless overlooked. Their reward surely comes from the self-satisfaction of having kept true faith with the past.

A Centennial Bibliography

NO BETTER illustration exists of lasting contributions to the Civil War Centennial then the publications issued during that commemorative period. It seems fitting, therefore, to conclude this report with a brief bibliography of Centennial works produced by Federal, State, and local agencies. No claim can be made for the completeness of this list, for many organizations—particularly on the local level—issued publications with only limited circulation.

To facilitate reference, most titles are listed as they appear under the Library of Congress's classification. This arrangement does not always permit proper credit to the sponsoring organization; yet this array of publications stands in sum as a memorial to agencies and individuals of both North and South who, in 1961–1965, reaffirmed unity and our common national purpose.

Abbott, Richard H., *Ohio's Civil War Governors.* 51 p.

Alabama Civil War Centennial Commission, *Brief Historical Sketches of Military Organizations Raised in Alabama during the Civil War.* 120 p.

———, *The Civil War Centennial: An Opportunity for all Alabamians.* 27 p.

———, *Location and Classification and Dates of Military Events in Alabama, 1861–1865.* 20 p.

———, *Reasons for the National Centennial Commemoration of the Civil War.* 11 p.

American History Workshop Proceedings. 4 vols.: 80 p. each.

Bacon, Edward, *Among the Cotton Thieves.* 299 p.

Bailey, James H., *Henrico Home Front, 1861–1865.* 299 p.

Barker, Elmer E., *Crown Point, New York, in the Civil War.* 136 p.

Barnhart, John D., *The Impact of the Civil War on Indiana.* 48 p.

Bartlett, Napier, *Military Record of Louisiana.* 469 p.

Battle of Wilson's Creek Commemorative Committee, *The Battle of Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861.* 20 p.

Bearrs, Edwin C., *Decision in Mississippi.* 652 p.

———, *Rebel Victory at Vicksburg.* 310 p.

———, *Steele's Retreat from Camden and the Battle of Jenkin's Ferry.* 204 p.

———, *Texas at Vicksburg.* 31 p.

Beeson, Lewis, *The Effects of the Civil War on Mining in Michigan.* 33 p.

Boylston, Raymond P., Jr., *The Battle of Aiken.* 22 p.

Buncombe County (N.C.) Confederate Centennial Committee, *The Batle of Asheville.* 14 p.

Burton, William L., *Descriptive Bibliography of Civil War Manuscripts in Illinois.* 408 p.

Catton, Bruce, *Address at Appomattox Court House . . .* 13 p.

Chambers, Lenoir, *The Whole Jackson.* 13 p.

Chessman, G. Wallace, *Ohio Colleges and the Civil War.* 32 p.
Clift, G. Glenn, *Civil War Engagements, Skirmishes, etc. in Kentucky, 1861–1865.* 29 p.
Cole, Maurice F., *The Impact of the Civil War on the Presbyterian Church in Michigan.* 20 p.
Coles, Harry L., *Ohio Forms an Army.* 26 p.
Cornish, Joseph J., *The Air Arm of the Confederacy.* 48 p.
Cunningham, Edward, *The Port Hudson Campaign.* 174 p.

Dannett, Sylvia G. L., and Jones, Katherine M., *Our Women of the Sixties.* 44 p.
Davis, Nora M., *Military and Naval Operations in South Carolina, 1860–1865.* 24 p.
Dawes, Rufus R., *Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers.* 345 p.
Day, Judson L., II, *The Baptists of Michigan and the Civil War.* 24 p.
Delaware Civil War Centennial Commission, *Delaware in the Civil War.* 48 p.
DeWitt, J. Doyle, *Lincoln in Hartford.* 15 p.
District of Columbia Civil War Centennial Commission, *The Shield.* 36 p.
———, *The Symbol and the Sword,* 71 p.
———, *The Upper Potomac in the Civil War.* 30 p.
Downer, Edward T., *Ohio Troops in the Field,* 34 p.

East, Charles, *Four Louisiana Civil War Stories.* 36 p.
Ellis, Helen H., *Michigan in the Civil War: A Guide to the Materials in the Detroit Newspapers, 1861–1865.* 409 p.
Ellis, Lewis E., *Steps in a Journey toward Understanding.* 29 p.

Fairfax County (Va.) Civil War Centennial Commission, *Fairfax County and the War between the States.* 70 p.
Ferguson, John L., *Arkansas and the Civil War.* 373 p.
Finan, William J., *Major General Alfred Howe Terry (1827–1890)* . . . 52 p.
Frederick County (Md.) Civil War Centennial, Inc., *To Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Monocacy* . . . 64 p.

Gates, Paul W., *Agriculture and the Civil War.* 393 p.
———, *Free Homesteads for All Americans.* 11 p.
Georgia Civil War Centennial Commission, *The Civil War Centennial: To Commemorate the War between the States* . . . 35 p.
———, Report . . . 24 p.
Graeff, Arthur D., *Four Firsts in Berks—1961.* 36 p.
Grant, Ulysses S., *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant.* Vol. I: 497 p.

Hall, Harry H., *A Johnny Reb Band from Salem.* 118 p.
Harper, Robert S., *Irvin McDowell and the Battle of Bull Run.* 15 p.
———, *Ohio at Perryville.* 7 p.
———, *Ohio Handbook of the Civil War.* 78 p.
———, *The Ohio Press in the Civil War.* 35 p.
Hawley, Joseph R., *Major General Joseph R. Hawley* . . . 84 p.
Hawthorne, Frank M., *The Episcopal Church in Michigan during the Civil War.* 29 p.
Hayes, Frederic H., *Michigan Catholicism in the Era of the Civil War.* 34 p.
Helena (Ark.) Centennial Association, *The Battle of Helena.* 23 p.
Henderson, Lindsey P., *The Oglethorpe Light Infantry, A Military History.* 57 p.
Hicken, Victor, *Illinois in the Civil War.* 405 p.
Hickey, James T., *Springfield, May 1865.* 14 p.
Hillman, Benjamin J., *Monuments to Memories* . . . 48 p.
———, *Virginia's Decision.* 23 p.

Horn, Stanley F., *Tennessee's War, 1861–1865.* 364 p.
Huebner, Henry R., *Civil War Artillery Manual.* 39 p.

Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission, *Civil War Medal of Honor Winners from Illinois.* 15 p.
———, *The End before the Beginning.* 32 p.
———, *Illinois Civil War Sketches.* 10 issues, 4 p. each.
———, *Illinois Military Units in the Civil War.* 53 p.
———, *A Portion of That Field.* 97 p.
———, *Report to Governor Otto Kerner . . .* 32 p.
Indiana Civil War Centennial Commission, *A Chronology of Indiana in the Civil War, 1861–1865.* 150 p.
———, *Guide to Indiana Civil War Manuscripts.* 402 p.
———, *Indiana in the Civil War.* 32 p.
Iobst, Richard W., *The Bloody Sixth [North Carolina].* 508 p.
Iowa Civil War Centennial Commission, *Iowa Will Long Remember the Civil War.* 16 p.
———, *The Undying Procession.* 104 p.

Johns, John E., *Florida during the Civil War.* 274 p.
Jones, Robert L., *Ohio Agriculture during the Civil War.* 25 p.
Jordan, William B., *Maine in the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1865: Checklist and Bibliography.* 35 p.
Joyce, Donald F. (comp.), *The Civil War: A List of One Hundred Books in Braille . . .* 7 p.
Jurgen, Robert J., *Major General John Sedgwick.* 31 p.

Keller, Allan, *Andrew Hull Foote, Gunboat Commodore.* 48 p.
Kentucky Civil War Commission. *Kentucky Remembers.* 24 p.
———, *Report to the Kentucky Civil War Commission . . .* 15 p.
Klein, Frederic S., *Just South of Gettysburg: Carroll County, Maryland, in the Civil War.* 247 p.
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